

TESTED

Sony Xperia Z3, Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro, LG G3 Stylus, Google Nexus 6, Subaru WRX 2.0 CVT, BlackBerry Passport

TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FAST-PACED LIFESTYLE

Speed

FEBRUARY 2015
P150



CES
2015

HELLO, HYBRID!

RISE OF 2-IN-1 DEVICES

PAGE 78



**ALL THE
RIGHT CURVES**

LG G FLEX 2

PAGE 28



**TAKE THE
POWER BANK**

JUICE UP IN STYLE

PAGE 67

One OS

TO RULE THEM ALL

PAGE 73

Coming into her own
Sarah Lahbati

AIRO
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FEBRUARY 2015

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CONTENTS

HOTSPOT

Form Factor 67

Re-charge in style with these cool—bordering on cute—power banks.

Feature 76

With the dawn of the mobile wallet and NFC-enabled transactions, is it time to kiss cash payments goodbye?

78

2-in-1 devices are all the rage. See how your hybrid and convertible computers fare.

Cover Girl 100

Discover more of 21-year-old bombshell Sarah Lahbati as *Speed* interviews her on her first cover shoot with the magazine.

COVER STORY 73

Looking for a single OS to rule them all? It may not be soon, but we are surely on our way to getting a unified operating system for our various devices.





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**Movies**

It's an action-packed February for you, with movies that give the feels, thrills, and a few tickles.

TV

Must watch! These series may have gone too soon. But who says you can't relive them with an overnight TV marathon?

Music

Forget funny and viral videos; check out these YouTube channels to satisfy your craving for some good music.

Books

In paperback: a new Neil Gaiman short story collection, Henri Cartier-Bresson's *Images à la Sauvette* in English, an art exercise book, and a Marvel comics featuring a powerhouse team of superheroes

Geek-Spotting

Who are the techies in your neighborhood? Even *manong* driver and *ate* guard know their technology well!

81 ▶

83

85

87 ▶

110

**TRENDING****Tech Frontiers**

A watch that matches your style, gas-detecting smartphones, a 3D-printed car, and other tech developments

Future Tech

Soon, all we need is a single drug to fight malaria and cancer. Plus, 3D microvaccines, an iPhone that falls on its good side, and a cable-free elevator

Green Tech

3D-printed fuel cells and a poo-powered bus are among the eco-friendly technologies we discovered

Cyberspace

Get a new browser for your desktop and mobile device or a website that builds itself. Or you can just visit our recommended places on the Web.

Mobile Apps

Leading the mobile apps to download this month is a social alarm clock that wakes you up with a call from a stranger.

Arsenal

Leading this month's arsenal picks are the CES 2015 standouts, recently launched mobile devices, and stuff to bring on your next travel.

PROVING GROUND**Tested**

Hot products we tested this month, plus *Assassin's Creed Rogue*

MANUAL**How It Works**

Things you need to know before splurging on that cutesy power bank

How To

Pimp your Android UI, remove private information from your phone, maximize Google's new email manager, and rid your mobile device of virus

Ask the Editor

Ask us and we'll answer any tech curiosity, trouble, or query on your mind

11

16

18

21

23

28

COLUMNS**TechnoSphere**

Resident tech journo Gadjo Cardenas Sevilla tells the tale of how he has learned to survive the beast that is the International Consumer Electronics Show.

Turbo Time

Speed's Motoring Editor and CES novice Mike Potenciano checks out the sprawling automotive technologies at the International CES 2015.

Speed-Geeking

Review your binary lessons, kids! I.T. expert Val J. Gonzales calculates the next digital doomsday following the Millennium Bug, and the next bug, and the next...

Open Forum

Guest columnist JM Tuazon goes back to 2004, when he was ~~compelled~~ decided to go without a mobile phone for a year, and realizes how difficult the disconnected life was then and more so today.

EVERY MONTH

Outbox	6
Contributors	8
Inbox	10
Gallery	119
Billboard	121
Store Directory	124
Mobile Device Buyer's Guide	125

ON THE COVER

Cover Sarah Lahbati
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White gown Jaz Cerezo

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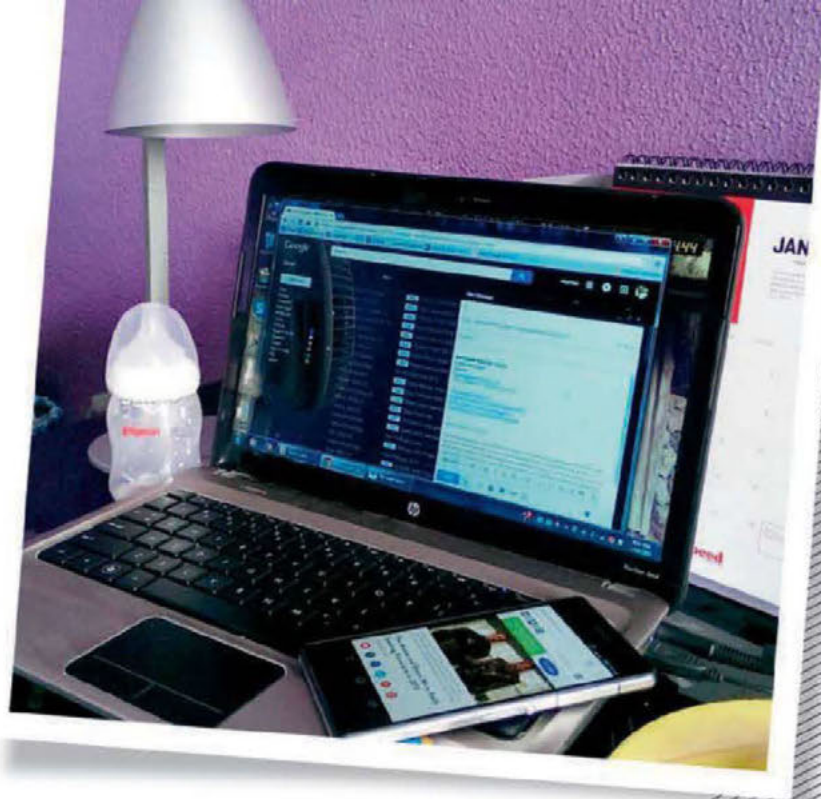
Between changing diapers and feeding a wailing baby, I've hardly had time to sit down and do real, uninterrupted work. In fact, I am composing this piece on my mobile phone while my son is making gurgling noises that sound like the onset of another Mom-I'm-hungry cry.

As a first-time mother, I'm discovering so many things, including the fact that caring for a newborn is a very demanding 24/7 job with no scheduled time off. Truth is, I worry that between sterilizing bottles and putting my baby to sleep, I wouldn't get anything else done. And yet here I am, writing this Editor's Note and putting the February issue to bed

from home. Ah, the wonders of telecommuting, the internet, and mobile devices!

Now more than ever, I appreciate technology—specifically mobile devices—and how it makes a lot of things possible. My weapons of choice, my laptop and smartphone, keep me constantly connected to people, products, services, and experiences. They keep me productive, entertained, and—dare I say it?—sane amidst the chaotic, messy, and glorious calling of being a working mom.

Because of mobile devices (and that wonderful thing called the internet), I can write and edit stories practically from anywhere, check layouts, correspond with the team at the office, watch videos while eating my midnight snack, fire off emails while at the grocery, keep in touch with friends and family, pay bills online, and do FaceTime calls with my sister in New York, so she can sing lullabies to her nephew.



In this issue of *Speed*, we celebrate smartphones, phablets, tablets, hybrids, wearables, and other mobile gadgets that feed the needs of our fast-paced lifestyles. Check out the delicious spreads of shiny, new toys launched at this year's CES, features on mobile payments and unified OS, tips on pimping your Android UI and choosing the right power bank, new apps to download, and other stories about mobile devices in particular and technology in general.

We've compiled tons of articles to keep you busy, informed, and entertained. So, whether you're holding a physical copy of this awesome magazine, or reading it on your phone or tablet (via Zinio, Buqo, or Magzter), we hope you enjoy this issue as much as we had fun putting it together. Happy *Speed* reading!

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Editor-in-Chief

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HERBERT AGUDERA is a 3D artist with a penchant for vintage cameras and leather, and whose bicycle serves as his primary means of transportation, playmate, and more than willing photography subject. Elsewhere, you can call him Corn, but then you'd need to bring some TP. Stalk him at corn.ph.



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TECH TRENDS & TIPS

Hi, Speed Team!

I was having a hard time selecting the right gadget for myself, then one day when I was at a bookstore searching for some tech magazine, I saw your December issue and found it very attractive. I decided to buy a copy, so I can get some tips and news about the tech world. Your Mobile Buyer's Guide really helped me a lot in selecting the right smartphone for myself. Now I can also share my *Speed* December copy with some of my friends so they would not have a hard time selecting the right phone or laptops for them.

The December issue is my first copy of *Speed* and I'm now interested to subscribe to your mag!

Thank you again.

Kean Oliver Gomez



We want to hear from you! Send in your thoughts and comments about *Speed* by dropping us a line or two at editorial@speed-mag.com.

Hi, Kean.

We're happy to hear that *Speed's* Mobile Buyer's Guide continues to be a reader favorite. It is a very helpful tool when searching for a new smartphone or tablet to add to your arsenal. But here's something that you won't find in the Mobile Buyer's Guide that we'd like you to have: a **Braven 570 speaker** worth P3,950. If you want to get your hands on it, drop by the *Speed* office, where it is waiting for you. Thanks and keep reading *Speed*!



GREAT 2015 STARTER!

Wow, *Speed*! I must say, I'm totally impressed with your January 2015 cover. It's very eye-catching; it looks bold and beautiful, and very tastefully done.

Of course, what's inside is equally important, and you did not disappoint. You have a mix of short & sweet articles and lengthy, meaty ones—except I hope you can add more long features, too, for readers like me who are into that kind of thing. :)

Anyway, congratulations on another awesome issue. If the January issue is any indication of what we should expect from you guys this year, then by golly, I can't wait for your upcoming issues!

Good job, guys!

Bryan S.

PEOPLE + SPEED

Dear editors,

I'm writing just to say that I enjoyed reading your January issue, particularly your interview with Calum Chisholm and your How To article featuring tips from Guy Kawasaki. These are tech rockstars and people who embody speed. I hope you can feature more people like them.

Gelo dela Cruz

Speed feed

We've scoured our social media feeds for your comments on *Speed's* January 2015 issue.



@poevirginia: Don't forget to grab a copy of *Speed* Magazine <3 cover graced by... yours truly. <3

@iamdoc: love it! thank you...happy new year
@poevirginia

@paolomaranan: Gandaaa!!!
@poevirginia @iamdoc

@khisjhiee: Sexy!

@michikoroko: Gorgeous!

@realmasaki26: Yesss<3



Happy New Year, *Speed* mag team. More power. The number one info-tech magazine.
- **Martin Andal**

Featured in *Speed* Jan 2015 edition. Looking forward to checking it out when back on Saturday. The front cover is worth the cover price alone. Thanks, *Speed*, for the opportunity!
- **Calum Chisholm**

Trending

TECH FRONTIERS

E-ink watch

MATCHES YOUR
MOOD, STYLE

Words **CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES**

ROLEX IS HARDLY FAZED BY SONY'S RECENT RELEASE: THE NEW E-PAPER FES WATCH, A TIMEPIECE THAT CHANGES DESIGN AND REACTS TO THE WEARER'S GESTURES.

It is definitely no match to the GMT Master II's gold/steel bracelet or the Rolex Daytona's sleek Everose gold and leather strap design, but this FES watch has a strap that works like a screen and changes designs from mock metal to faux leather on the wearer's whim. Even Rolex's top high-dollar models can't do that.

It is undoubtedly cheap-looking, being a paper watch and all. In fact, it looks more like a toy—but it does the job of telling you the time while using up little power (it's touted to have 60 days of battery life on a single charge). The FES watch uses e-ink technology, is made of flexible paper-thin material, and displays black and white text or graphics. It works pretty much like the e-ink screens of e-book readers.

Sony, which already has its own line of smartwatches, hopes to market the FES watch as a fashion accessory (FES stands for Fashion Entertainments) instead of a smart device strapped to the user's wrist. And it looks like Sony (under the guise of the FES startup) isn't stopping with its e-paper watch. There's also talk of a bow tie, hat, and shoe accessories in the works that would also be made entirely of e-paper.



http://www.123rf.com/profile_pixologic

HYPER HAPTICS

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THAT LITTLE VIBRATION IN OUR POCKET WHEN OUR PHONE GOES OFF ON SILENT MODE OR THAT EXCITING SHUDDERING OF THE GAME CONTROLLER WHEN WE DEFEAT AN ENEMY. These sensations are called haptic effects, and this tactile feedback can do more than just enhance your gaming or mobile device experience.

In case you didn't know, haptic technology is being used in surgical training and rehabilitation. And soon, we may see this technology being employed in CT scans, enhanced learning, and yes, an even better gaming experience.

Using ultrasound and the principle of acoustic radiation force, scientists from the University of Bristol manipulate the non-linear effects of sound to create forces on the skin strong enough to generate tactile sensations. By noting sound wave behaviors when it hits an object, the team will be able to deduce the shape. And by focusing complex patterns of ultrasound, we may be able to feel these shapes.

"In the future, people could feel holograms of objects that would not otherwise be touchable, such as feeling the differences between materials in a CT scan or understanding the shapes of artefacts in a museum," says study leader Dr. Ben Long.



Pain in a petri

THE SECRET TO RELIEVING PAIN MAY SOON BE FOUND IN A PETRI DISH. HARVARD UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO GENERATE HUMAN NERVE CELLS OUTSIDE THE BODY.

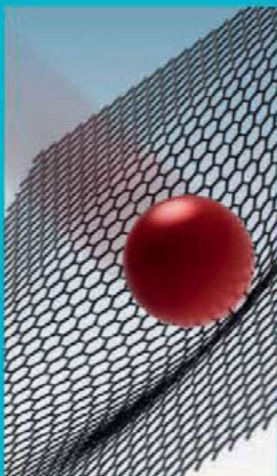
These pain-sensing neurons in the body send painful stimuli to the brain. By reprogramming ordinary skin cells, the scientists were able to develop fully mature pain neurons in a petri plate.

According to Dr. Clifford Woolf of the Harvard Stem Cell

Institute, by creating pain in a plate, they can study what causes discomfort and aches to the human nervous system. The neurons that the team created retain the key aspects of the body's pain system that serve as indications of tissue damage. The cells in the dish respond to immediate physical injury, acute pain, and chronic long term pain aside from other sensations like itch and discomfort. When heated, the nerve cells fire off signals the way skin would react when subjected to extreme heat. The same reactions were noted when introducing capsaicin, the key ingredient in chili peppers.

With this experiment, the team is hoping to better understand human diseases and discover treatments for different ailments. Nerve cells tailor-made from a patient's skin can also help formulate safer and more personalized pain relievers—because everyone experiences pain differently.

Testing graphene's SUPER STRENGTH



YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT SUPERMAN IS A FICTIONAL CHARACTER, BUT IF THE MAN OF STEEL DID EXIST, HE WOULD WANT HIS SUIT TO BE MADE OF GRAPHENE, A THIN TRANSPARENT SHEET OF PURE CARBON THAT HAS TEN TIMES THE STOPPING POWER OF STEEL. AND HE'D BE CALLED MAN OF GRAPHENE INSTEAD.

Known as one of the most electrically conductive materials in the world and one of the strongest, graphene is being used and tested for many applications, including energy storage and biological engineering. And just recently, researchers discovered that this atomic scale honeycomb lattice made of carbon

atoms can be used as an almost indestructible but extremely light body armor.

A team from Rice University test-fired at 10 to 100 sheets of graphene with micron-size glass bullets at 3,000 meters per second. The team discovered that graphene absorbs a great amount of kinetic energy and when hit with great impact, it stretches into a cone before cracking outwards.

According to the researchers, the tests indicate that graphene could be used in bulletproof vests and even protecting spacecraft from debris hurdling through space.

Words CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES

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SOON, YOU CAN GET AN ALCOHOLIC BUZZ OR A CAFFEINE JOLT BY SIMPLY WEARING A HEADSET.

Touching on the untapped potential of the human mind still sounds far-fetched with the technology we have today. But that didn't stop the guys behind Thync, a Silicon Valley-based startup offering a mood-altering headset that, according to CEO and co-founder Izy Goldwasser, produces a calming effect similar to how you feel after consuming an alcoholic drink, while the energizing effect is comparable to the feeling after a cup of coffee.

Thync utilizes neuro-signaling, which uses electronic or ultrasonic waveforms to signal neural pathways in the brain. The device delivers a constant low current (a variation of transcranial direct current stimulation) to the head via electrodes, altering the activity of neurons in a specific area.

It is operated using a smartphone, giving you full control over the amount of current and strength of the effect. A session lasts about 10 minutes and the effect can last for up to 45 minutes, varying from person to person. Experts, however, are raising concerns about the safety of such devices as it could be harmful when signals are sent to the wrong area in the brain.

Thync big!

3D print YOUR FIRST CAR



BUILDING A FULLY FUNCTIONAL CAR TAKES A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME, NOT TO MENTION THOUSANDS OF PARTS, INCLUDING VERY SMALL SCREWS, BOLTS, AND NUTS.

It would take days, if not weeks, before it is completed—but not the Strati.

The Strati is the world's first 3D-printed electric car. Built by Arizona-based Local Motors, the two-seater, rear-wheel drive

roadster is the result of a four-and-a-half-month process—from design to finish—and is composed of only 49 parts as opposed to the average 25,000 in a regular car.

The car itself is made in just over 44 hours in a shipping container-size 3D printer. But according to Local Motors CEO, Jay Rogers, the timescale for future models could be cut to as short as six weeks, with the printing itself taking place in just 24 hours.

The Strati will be available within the year, with an initial price tag of \$18,000 to \$30,000.

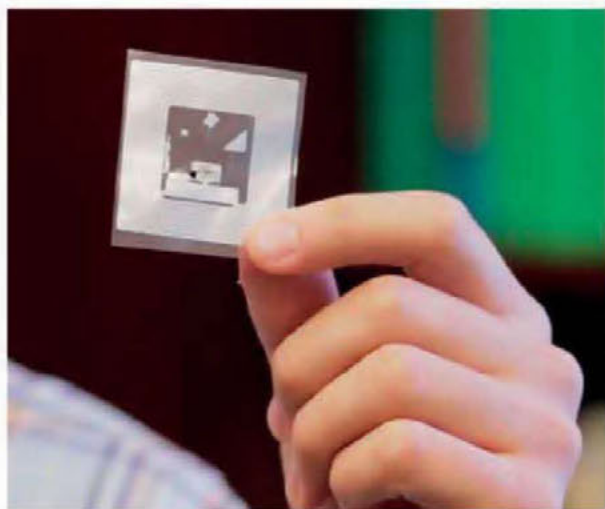
GAS-DETECTING SENSORS IN SMARTPHONES

WE, COMMON FOLKS, USE OUR SMARTPHONES FOR A VARIETY OF THINGS, INCLUDING TAKING PHOTOS, BROWSING THE WEB, AND THE USUAL CALLING AND TEXTING. But geniuses at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Chemistry are using theirs to detect hazardous gases and environmental pollutants.

MIT chemists are working on inexpensive gas-detecting sensors based on devices called chemiresistors, which consist of modified simple electrical circuits that change resistance when exposed to a

particular chemical. The wireless sensors, referred to as CARDS (chemically actuated resonant devices) are made from modified NFC tags with carbon nanotubes.

Possible applications include detection of explosives, harmful gases, and environmental pollutants. Using the technology to accurately detect food spoilage or contamination could prove to be useful in delicate situations such as disaster response (whether natural or man-made), where one tiny mistake could mean life or death.

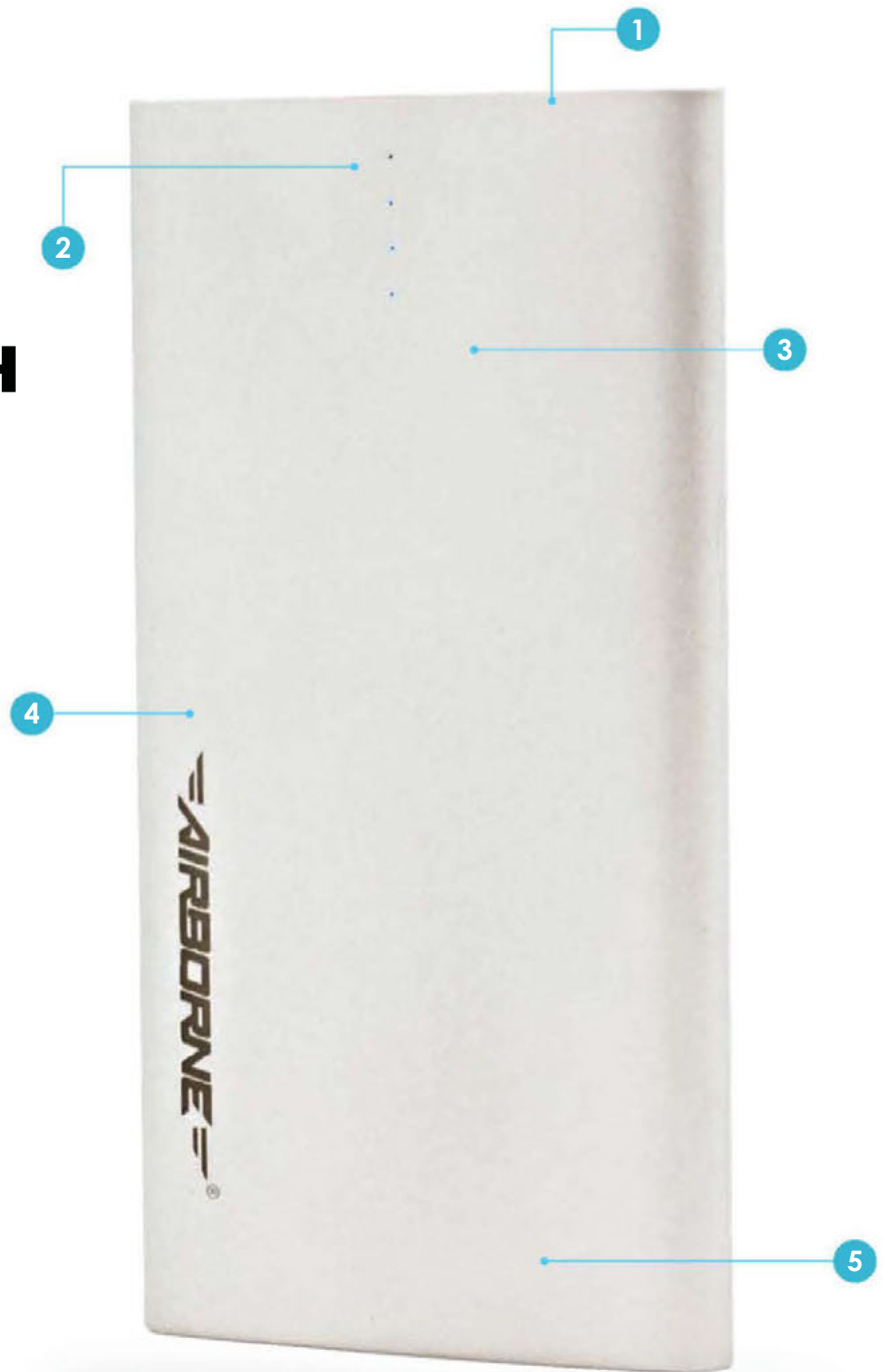


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Badass drugs

FIGHT MALARIA, BIG C

Words CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE ALL YOU NEED TO SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES IS A SINGLE DRUG TO KILL THEM ALL.

this new treatment from a group at the Australian National University (ANU) targets its weakest spot: a pump that regulates its salt production.

The chemical compound blocks the pump on the parasite's surface, causing it to quickly fill up with salt. In turn, the salt draws water inside the parasite, making it swell and burst. Once it launches in the market, the drug's efficacy can greatly outdo its predecessors.

BURST OF HOPE

Until now, the malaria parasite (*genus plasmodium*) has managed to develop resistance to existing medications. But

GONE IN 48 HOURS

Another anti-malarial drug is being developed to deliver rapid results.

R. Kiplin Guy of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital writes about a new molecule called (+)-SJ733, which in just one dose can kill 80 percent of the *plasmodium* parasite in 24 hours, and render it undetectable in 48 hours. The drug works quickly, hindering the parasite's ability to develop drug resistance.

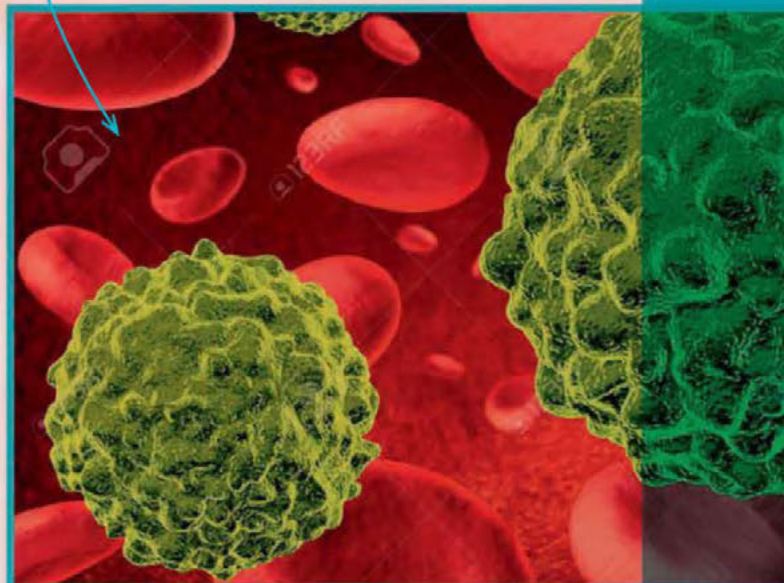
SJ733 attacks infected red blood cells by interfering with their sodium production, making them distort and shrink. The immune system then discards the cells along with the parasite, leaving healthy cells unharmed.

ANTI-AGING = ANTI-CANCER

The big C is 21st century's biggest enemy. And we're waging war against it.

Scientists at the University of Leicester are studying a method of detecting old cells (aka senescent cells) in the human body. These cells contribute to aging symptoms, but they also appear when the body fights off cancer.

This system can be used to predict a patient's chances of surviving certain types of cancer, particularly breast cancer, enabling doctors to deliver a more accurate prognosis. For healthy patients, the identifying markers can be used to select and eliminate senescent cells from bodily tissue, slowing down the signs of aging.



http://www.123rf.com/profile_mrflza

The iPhone

THAT BENDS LANDS RIGHT

IT'S NOT EXACTLY KNOWN FOR SHATTERING PAVEMENTS OR OUTLASTING A YOUNG CHILD WHO HAS DISCOVERED THE FINE ART OF THROWING OBJECTS. But the Apple iPhone of the future could be redesigned to reorient itself after being dropped.

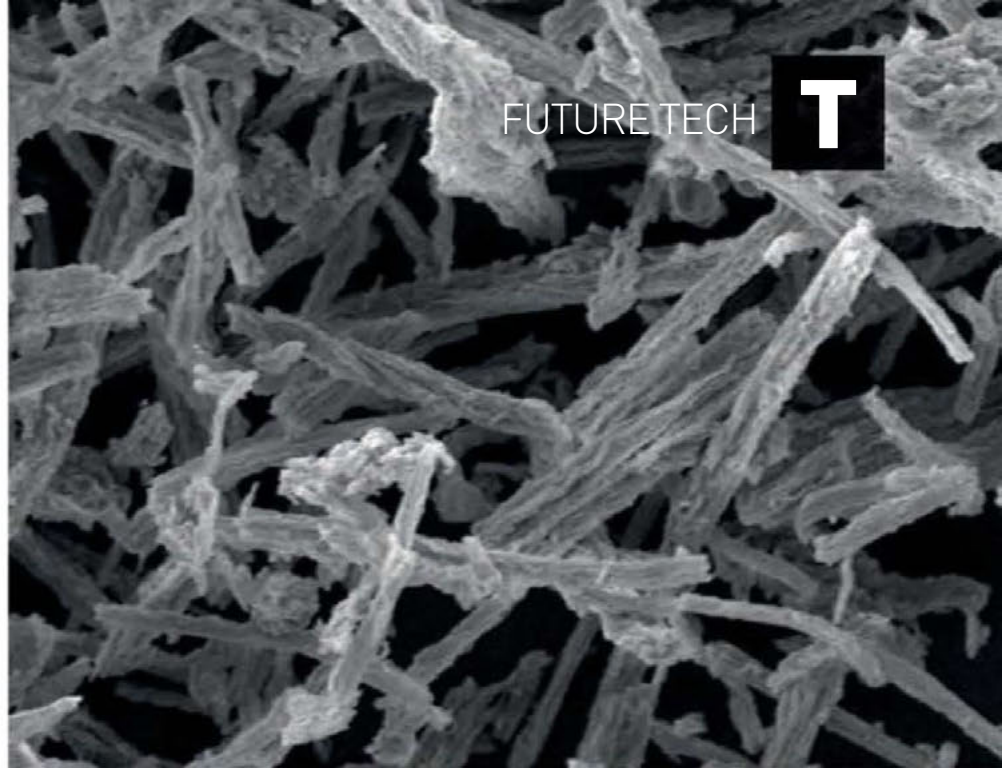
Apple is developing a system that makes use of an accelerometer and gyroscope to detect a fall. It will be fitted with an ultrasonic transmitter that informs your phone when it slips from your hand, or whatever it is it's falling from.

The system rapidly calculates the speed and angle of descent, estimated time of impact, rotation, orientation, and other key factors that will help the device figure out the safest landing position. A vibration motor comes into play at the moment of impact, where it adjusts the angle by which the phone lands, minimizing the risk of damage.

Apple also discusses more outlandish fixtures such as a mechanism that automatically grabs your headphone's jack, a pressurized gas canister that facilitates thrust, and pop-out aerodynamic foils that work like wings. Perhaps an airbag that deploys automatically will also do, but for the meantime, we're looking forward to seeing the drop detection system in action.



Words CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO



3D microvaccines OFFER MAJOR BENEFITS

THE DOCTORS OF LILLIPUT WOULD'VE MARVELED AT THIS: MICROSCOPIC 3D VACCINES THAT CAN EFFECTIVELY COMBAT SOME OF THE DEADLIEST DISEASES—EVEN CANCER AND HIV.

A biomaterial programmed to automatically assemble into rod-like 3D structures is being developed by Harvard researchers at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in Cambridge, MA. The biomaterial can prevent cancer and fight off infectious illnesses, including HIV.

These micron-sized biodegradable structures are called mesoporous silica rods (MSRs), which can be infused with specific drug components.

Once injected into the body, the rods spontaneously form a structure that houses dendritic cells that activate a powerful immune response in the body, allowing them to attack specific viruses and cancer cells at the onset of their appearance. After a few months, the injected MSRs biodegrade naturally and safely on their own.

Not only can this 3D vaccine target existing diseases, it can also be used as a therapeutic measure because it facilitates immunity, increasing the body's resistance to infection.

Elevating the ELEVATOR



AS A KID, I ONCE DREAMED ABOUT ELEVATORS THAT TRAVEL SIDEWAYS AND IN A SPIRALING MOTION INSIDE A CYLINDRICAL BUILDING. While the latter has yet to be accomplished, sideways mobility is now a reality.

German company ThyssenKrupp has invented MULTI, a cable-free elevator that can also travel sideways with the help of magnetic motors, taking its cue from the high-speed MagLev bullet train.

Each car has two magnetic linear motors for vertical and horizontal mobility. Wireless induction causes this system to generate electricity for the car's lighting and electronic fixtures, so its exterior is completely free of wiring.

In case of a power outage, emergency measures will be taken to hold the car in place. ThyssenKrupp aims to deliver a working model by 2016, but it may take a few more years before MULTI goes into full swing.

Shape the cells

3D-PRINTED FUEL CELLS ON ITS WAY

Words **PATRICIA MAE CALICA**

THE STANDARD STACK ARRANGEMENT AND SHAPE OF A FUEL CELL IS VERY LIMITING—NOT TO MENTION BORING.

Good thing then that the geniuses from Northwestern University, led by Dr. Ramille Shah, developed new inks that can be used to create the individual components of the solid oxide fuel cell—cathode, anode, electrolytes, and interconnects—using a single 3D printer.

The inks invented are made of ceramic particles, a binder, and a cocktail of solvents that evaporate at different rates; the last made the 3D printing possible.

Highly volatile solvents evaporate immediately, turning the liquid piece to solid instantly, while other solvents evaporating more slowly keep the printed line

soft enough to meld with the next. Printing of the components is done at room temperature but has to be fired after at up to 1,250°C to make them denser and smoother. Because of this, the

researchers tweaked the composition of the inks and added iron oxide in some layers to ensure that the different parts of the printed cell shrink at the same time during firing.

So, what is the fuss about? Fuel cell technology is one of the fastest growing sectors and may be the next big thing in energy generation. This technology powers vehicles and large structures by converting gas into electricity—a cleaner method of energy production compared with mainstream sources, experts would say. Solid-oxide fuel cells in particular can provide power to electricity grids with its ability to work with various gases, including methane, and operate at high temperature.

3D printing makes way for easy manufacturing of fuel cells in supplant of joining its separate parts together. Researchers also believe that this could lead to groundbreaking designs that can maximize fuel cell technology.

Though the use of fuel cells is far from becoming ubiquitous, developments like these are a step closer to reaching its optimum potential.



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GREEN TECH



FROM BLU- RAY TO SOLAR RAY

Microstructures
boost light
absorption

SOLAR ENERGY IS AN ABUNDANT AND READILY AVAILABLE ENERGY SOURCE, BUT THE TECHNOLOGY USED TO COLLECT IT ISN'T THAT EFFICIENT JUST YET. BLU-RAY DISCS, HOWEVER, CAN IMPROVE LIGHT ABSORPTION.

The presence of nanometers-high microscopic structures on the surface of solar panels can improve light absorption efficiency, according to materials scientists at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

The researchers used actual Blu-ray discs to create a mold for a quasi-random surface texture that they placed on an active layer of a polymer solar cell. Their findings show that the pattern boosted light absorption significantly by 21.8 percent as compared to either a random pattern or no pattern at all.

Looks like box office flops can be good after all.



Words **LUIS ADRIAN HIDALGO**

P-P-P-POO POWER!

HUMANS ACROSS THE WORLD ACCUMULATE TONS OF WASTE EVERY YEAR. ALL WASTES ARE ENTIRELY USELESS, YOU SAY? MAYBE THE "POO BUS" CAN CHANGE YOUR MIND.

The 40-seater Bio Bus is operated by UK tour operator Bath Bus Company. The eco-friendly vehicle makes use of biomethane, which is produced by converting human excrement and food waste into a usable energy source. This is done by breaking down organic materials using microorganisms, producing biogas and a solid compost-like material. This process is called anaerobic digestion because of the removal of oxygen.

Imagine: if we could repurpose all organic waste materials in the planet, we'd be able to wipe the world clean and develop a new source of energy at the same time. As one saying goes, "one man's trash is another man's treasure."



A FINLAND-BASED STARTUP THINKS THAT THERE CAN BE A MORE EFFICIENT WAY OF PICKING UP TRASH THAT WILL ALSO SAVE YOU MONEY.

The 40-man startup Enevo created a full system that allows cities to measure the amount of garbage the residents have in their trash bins. Enevo's sensors use ultrasonic technology to determine the fill level of garbage cans. The system then calculates the optimal schedule for sending out trucks to do the clean-up. The rugged sensors, with batteries that can last up to 10 years, have wireless 3G connectivity to transmit data regularly.

The city of Nottingham, England already uses the technology, while Amsterdam has just signed a deal with Enevo.

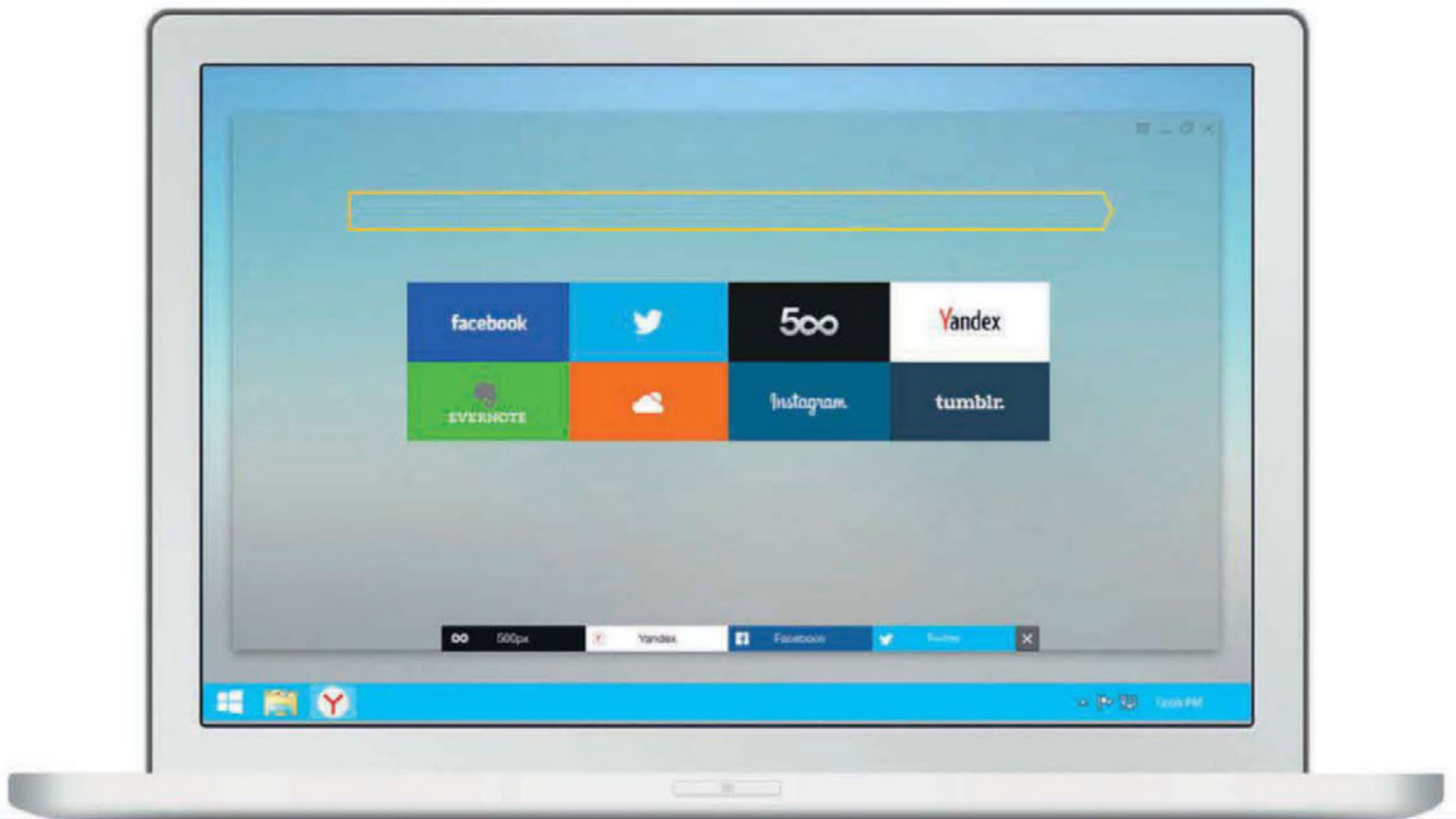
PICK UP TRASH, SAVE BIG BUCKS



GOING MINIMAL

Yandex.Browser

Words **PATRICIA MAE CALICA**



LESS IS MORE. OR IN THE CASE OF RUSSIAN TECH GIANT YANDEX'S NEW WEB BROWSER, IT'S SIMPLY BETTER.

Like the popular Chrome and Opera, the new Yandex.Browser (browser.yandex.com) is based on Google's open source Chromium project. However, while the two simply tweaked the Chromium interface, Yandex's refreshed version tore it down to the absolute minimum. The result? A simple, easy-to-use interface that suits well on your tablet or smartphone but works nicely on the desktop, too.

Yandex.Browser gets out of the way when you open it. The new design is very clean and minimal as it pares down distracting elements from its user interface, leaving just enough for you to scroll, add tabs and switch among them, go back, and access your settings. Where it is visible—such as the URL bar, tabs, and title bar—Yandex uses translucency and flat design to de-emphasize its presence. And because of this clutter-free approach, the webpages load rapidly even with low connection.

Once you install the Yandex.Browser on your desktop or smartphone, it automatically generates the Tableau, a series of Windows-like tiles of your most visited websites, on the animated backdrop of the Yandex homepage. The sites and order of the Tableau are fully editable after that, same with the background in which you have 12 built-in animations to choose from.

Aside from the minimalist design, this revamped browser is also adaptive. Open a website—Facebook, Twitter, or Gmail—and the title bar changes its color to match it, giving you the illusion of using the mobile app version on your browser. The tabs for opened webpages are displayed at the bottom of the window, and even these are color-matched with the livery of the original webpage.

Want one? The Yandex.Browser is available for Windows and Mac desktops, as well as iOS and Android mobile devices.

The DNA OF A SONG



Creating a music album is a beautiful process that most people don't get to experience. And sometimes you wonder how those heart-wrenching melodies or hip-swaying beats came to be.

The DNA Project (jviewz.com) lets you experience being part of an album-making process. This first-of-its-kind music platform is an experiment born out of the mind of Brooklyn-based producer and songwriter j.viewz.

Not only can you follow the creation of the album in real-time, you can also influence its DNA by uploading your own files, downloading individual components and using them in your songs or tweaking them and uploading them back to the site, or downloading remix files to create your version of it. Once the album is completed, the website gives you the ability to explore the DNA of the entire album and trace back, step by step, the genesis of each song.



ONE IN MUSIC

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER MET IN ANY WAY, AND MOST LIKELY WILL NEVER MEET, CREATE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER?

The answer is yes. If you don't believe me, you should visit *Thru You Too* (thru-you-too.com).

Thru You Too is a website for a similarly named music album that features unrelated YouTube clips mixed together to create a full song. The repertoire includes practice videos self-

produced in makeshift studios and in intimate bedrooms taken using webcams or phone cameras, among others. These component clips are compiled by YouTube user Kutiman, which he then layers and edits together seamlessly to produce a collage of original music that's groovy and awe-inspiring.

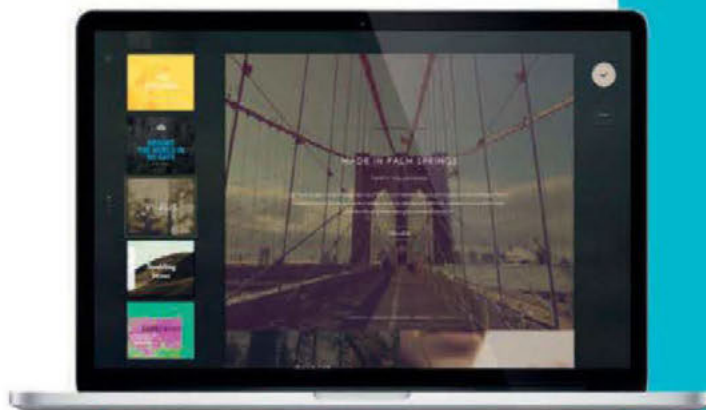
As of writing, the website features a mix of six modern jazz, soul, and R&B songs: "This is How I Feel," "Now is the Time," "No One in this World," "Give it Up," "Change," and "My Vendetta."

A website THAT BUILDS ITSELF

DESIGNING A GOOD-LOOKING WEBSITE IS NEVER EASY. AND WHILE THERE ARE A LOT OF DO-IT-YOURSELF WEBSITE BUILDERS THAT DON'T REQUIRE ANY KNOWLEDGE IN CODING, YOU'LL ALWAYS SURELY REACH A LIMIT WHERE YOU TRY TO ENHANCE YOUR SITE. The Grid (thegrid.io) does away with all of this by using artificial intelligence. It designs your website based on the content you upload and goals you choose instead of building it pixel by pixel.

You start by picking preferred layouts, along with priorities such as social engagement or e-commerce. The Grid will then handle things like color schemes, fonts, images, and text placement on your website. It intelligently resizes photos for small-screen devices, too. Eventually, The Grid will learn your preferences and will improve your website automatically based on your previous choices.

To start using The Grid, you'll have to pay the service's \$96 annual fee during the introductory period.



WAKE UP, STRANGER!

Wakie – Social Alarm Clock

Platforms: Android, iOS, Windows Phone

Words **PATRICIA MAE CALICA**

FREE

WAKE UP EVERY MORNING TO THE SWEET, LOVELY VOICE OF... A STRANGER?!

In what sounds like a creepy scene straight out of an action-thriller movie, or perhaps just a harmless chance encounter to start your day, the new Wakie app gives your classic alarm clock a contemporary twist by rousing you out of bed with a phone call from someone you've never met before.

To start using Wakie, you need to sign in using your mobile number and then set up an alarm time.

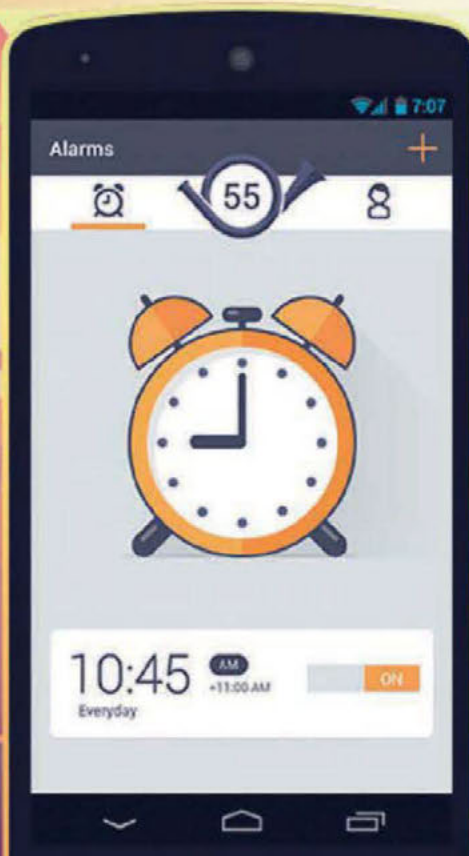
When you do so, the

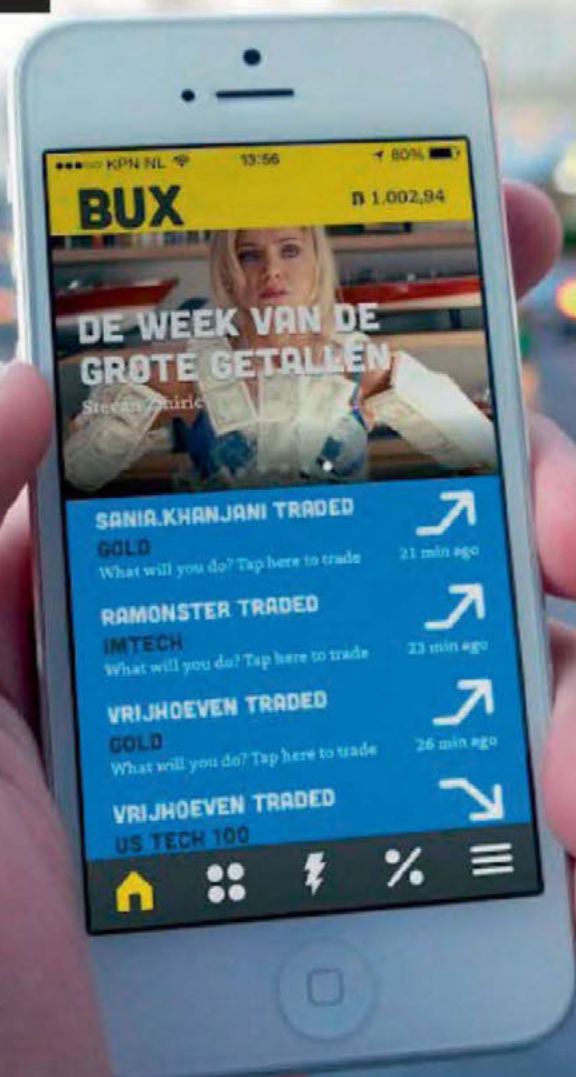
app identifies you as a Sleepyhead on that time. When your alarm sets off, a Wakie—a user who doesn't have a scheduled alarm time like you—of similar age and opposite gender calls your phone to chat you into consciousness. Similarly, if you're wide awake and a Sleepyhead needs to be woken, you can serve as his/her human alarm clock.

Does this mean you'll sleep in and be late if there is no Wakie around? Not really. In case no one is available to call you, the app sends you an automated robo-call to get the job done. No worries on your privacy, too, because calls are made through the app, so your number is never shared, unless you want it to be.

Wakie's wake-up process follows the logic that you're more likely to be fully awake after a short conversation than if you just reached out to hit snooze. Phone calls last for 60 seconds—just long enough to wake up your sleepy brain but short enough to avoid awkward conversations. It's up to you to get creative in kick starting another person's day: sing out of tune, tell jokes, or recite poems.

As of writing, only Sleepyheads from U.S., Canada, U.K., Singapore, and Hong Kong can receive alarm calls. The rest will have to take on the responsibility of being a Wakie for now.





Bux

FREE

Platform: iOS

Want to be the next Wolf of Wall Street? Try humming Matthew McConaughey's money chant for some good luck. Or just download Bux and learn how to crack the world of stocks.

Bux is an iOS app that allows you to play certain stocks without the risk of losing your car, your house, your wife, and your kids.

Everyone starts with a funBux account wherein you are given virtual currency of 1000 Bux to let loose on a garden of 50 top company shares, currencies, and commodities. Got zero know-how on stocks? Don't worry; the app will take you through step-by-step instructions on how to search for companies, sell shares, and what the jargons mean. The app is split into four main sections—news on trades, the stocks, battles, and your portfolio—allowing you to easily manage your investments.

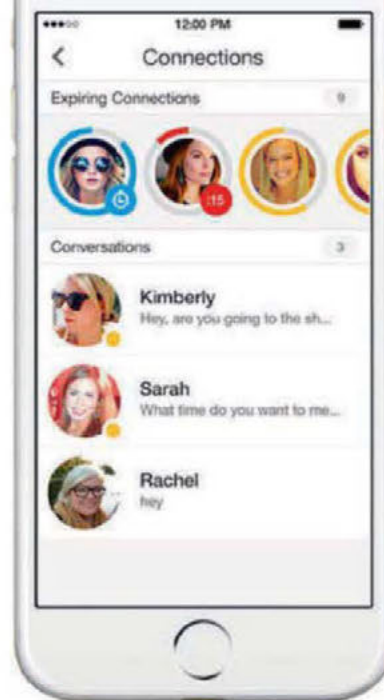
Once you get the hang of the world of finance, you can start trading for real through the app as a seriousBux user with an initial investment of £50. The app warns you, though, of the real-life trading risks. So, if that sounds too serious, just stick to playing for fun and compete against your friends in Bux battles.

BUMBLE

Platform: iOS

FREE

Bumble changes the rules of the online dating game by giving the power to girls to make the first move in a heterosexual pairing. They must initiate a conversation within 24 hours or else the match disappears forever. Don't fret gentlemen, you can extend the match for another 24 hours and hope that she notices you during the extra time. In a same gender pair, though, anyone can start the conversation.



Bumble is a dating app much like its more popular counterpart Tinder. If Bumble's design and functionality look very similar to Tinder's, it's because the app is developed by former Tinder executive Whitney Wolfe together with other former Tinder employees.

This dating app comes with a sparse, white space-heavy design. Simply set up your profile and choose the age and gender preferences for your match. Bumble then displays the people nearby that you may connect with. Swipe right or left to save or dismiss the profile. Once two people mutually opt in by swiping right, they're added to each other's "hive" of connections.

C NOTICE

Platform: Android

FREE

Productive and attractive—that's the C Notice app.

C Notice lets you view notifications from your favorite apps and track important things on your Android device directly from the lock screen. It allows you to use and control your apps without having to access your phone's status bar.

The notifications come in the form of the apps' icons floating on top of the other apps or the lock screen. Tap on an icon and a floating window pops up showing unviewed messages or updates. Each window has a colored header display that matches the app's icon for easy identification.



Quick actions like open, expand, or dismiss are enabled through swipe gestures. Swipe the icon up to remove a single notice, down to remove all notices, and towards the center of the screen to open notice app.

C Notice lets you choose which apps you get notifications from: missed calls, unread text messages or emails, upcoming calendar events and reminders, and notifications from your social media accounts.



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GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

A CES survivor's story

INTERNATIONAL CES, ALSO KNOWN AS THE INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW, IS THE LARGEST GLOBAL EXHIBIT FOR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY AND AFFILIATED INDUSTRIES, AND HAS GROWN INTO A MASSIVE, SPRAWLING SENSORY OVERLOAD OF AN EXPERIENCE.

With over 160,000 attendees, 3,700 exhibitors, 20,000 product launches, and around 6,000 reporters frenetically storming 2.6 million square feet of Las Vegas' cavernous casinos and convention centers, the CES has become a weeklong blitz of technology, products, announcements, and a celebration of all things tech.

With a bang

CES 2015 was a beast. Aside from the massive show itself at the Las Vegas Convention Center, there was a whole other show at the Sands Expo & Convention Center dedicated to wearables, 3D printers, robotics, and wild Kickstarter- and Indiegogo-type concept products hunting for investors.



Several other companies that didn't want to pay organizers for booths at the show set up camp in various nearby hotels to show and demo their wares. While some of the biggest tech companies have since pulled out of CES in order to hold their own product launch events, there are still dozens who believe in the value of CES. It is the one event where you have many of the members of the media present and eager to cover products.

What's new?

While International CES continues to show innovations and introduce new products, I found that many of the same demos I saw two years ago were still being shown off, albeit in updated versions.

The 'next big thing' connected home demos from Samsung were not too different from what I saw back in 2012. The same goes for the 8K video demonstration, which had similarly long lines two years ago.

Surviving Las Vegas

While I was only in Las Vegas for roughly three days of the show, I feel that I sufficiently covered the heck out of the exhibits. Tracking my steps, mileage, and activity on my Jawbone UP24 revealed that on the first day, I walked 22 kilometers for a personal best of 28,000 steps.

As a CES and trade show veteran, I carefully planned for the various events while employing my survival tactics—wear comfy shoes, bring lots of hand sanitizer, hydrate, eat healthy snacks often, and rest. Despite this, I found covering the show and the evening events, parties, and schmooze-fests, plus filing my stories at the end of the day, quite exhausting.

Looking back, I wonder if I was trying to do too much since I wasn't staying in Las Vegas the whole week. But I realized that I pushed myself to cover as much of the show as I could because I was searching for truly remarkable products and technologies.

While I did see dozens of new concepts and upcoming products—some stunning demos of self-driving cars, Volkswagen's touch- and gesture-oriented Golf R Touch, and the latest 4K TVs were impressive—nothing really blew


me away. I'm writing this a week after the show and as I'm scanning through photos and videos, there are really very few things that stood out for me.

Attendance optional

Can one cover CES remotely? Absolutely. I did it for two years in a row and actually managed to put up more stories because I wasn't pounding the pavement.

One thing you do get at CES is hands-on time with devices, some demos, and all the excitement of being present for the keynotes. But a lot of this information is streamed on the internet or made available later on. So, it is completely accessible after the event.

After my CES 2015 experience, do I expect to cover the show again? Maybe not for another two years if I can help it. The companies I do cover regularly tend to have their own events throughout the year, making it easier to focus on one product launch as opposed to dozens.

Personally, I think CES should be like the Olympics; it should take place only once every four years but be twice as long—and possibly move from place to place and not just stay at seedy ol' Vegas. 

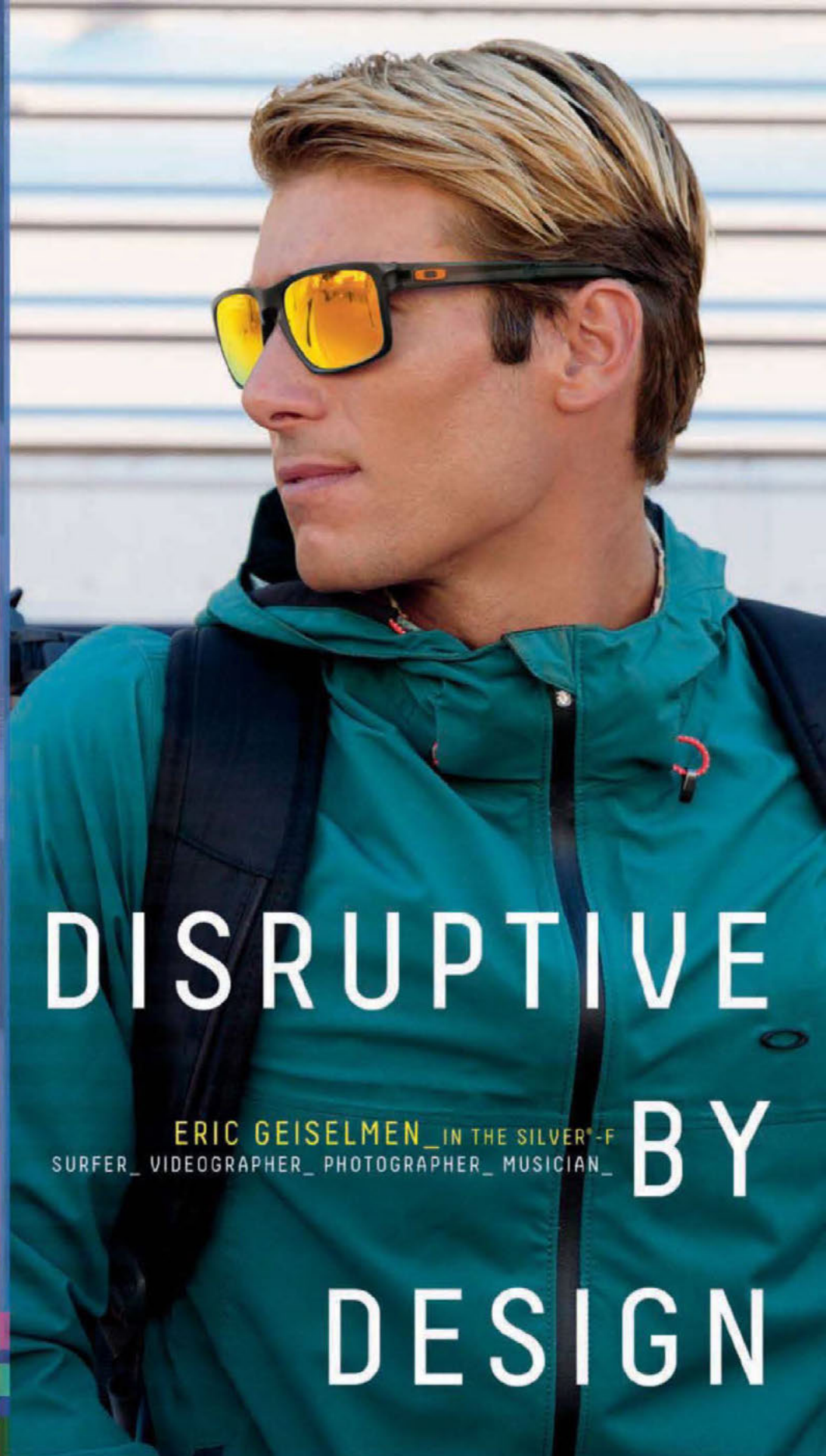




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Sunglass Haven Newport, Bonifacio High Street, Alabang Town Center New Wing, Olympic World Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 3, Gateway, Robinson's Place Ermita, Robinson's Place Magnolia, Lucky China Town, Shangri La, Marquee Mall Pampanga, Harborpoint Subic, Ayala Center Cebu, Abreeza Mall Davao, Centrio Ayala CDO and Central Citywalk RPB

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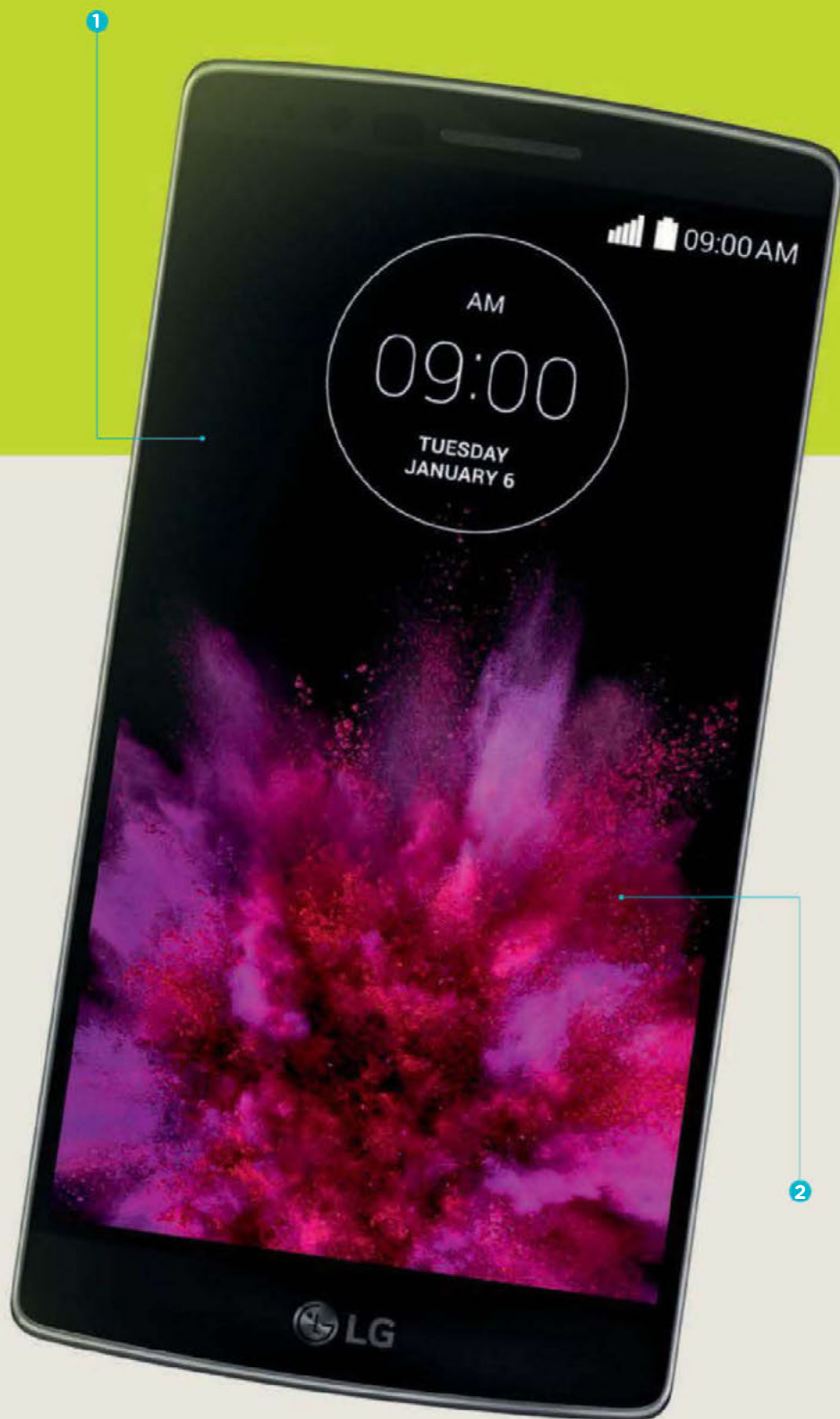
All the right curves

LG G Flex 2

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

...IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES.

LG TAKES ON THE SEXY, CURVED FORM AGAIN WITH THE G FLEX 2 AND IT COMMANDS YOUR APPRECIATION. CRADLE GENTLY IN YOUR PALM AND THE G FLEX 2 LIES SENSUOUSLY, INVITING YOU TO STARE AT ITS BEGUILING DISPLAY.



Spin it slowly and let your eyes follow the fluid line down the convex rear. Now, pop the hood.

1 Powering this beautiful beast is a 2.0GHz 64-bit octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 coupled with 2GB RAM. The built-in storage is average at 16 or 32GB, but the microSD slot supports up to a mind-blowing 2TB.

2 The G Flex 2 runs Android 5.0 Lollipop, the latest OS from Google. It ramps up security and user-friendliness by keeping the Knock Code feature and adding Glance View, a way to quickly check the time and notifications.

3 A 13MP rear shooter should be just about enough for you to impress the G Flex 2 with your artistic depth. The 2.1MP front camera is more of a challenge, but you should do alright with your self-portraits. Just remember: best foot forward and nobody can say no to a great smile.

4 The curved plastic OLED is now smaller but packs a higher pixel density at 403ppi, thanks to the 1080p Full HD resolution cramped in just 5.5 inches of screen real estate.

5 The G Flex 2 is no damsel in distress. There's more to its rear than just beauty and madness, now that it takes only about 10 seconds to heal itself from minor scratches. Would you tap that? The home button, flanked by the volume buttons, says you should.

6 The fun goes on all day and all night, with the G Flex 2's 3,000mAh Li-Po battery. Show some personality and choose between the Platinum Silver and Flamenco Red colors.

TWO-FACED WONDER

Yota YotaPhone 2

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

Save your e-book reader money for the rainy day. The YotaPhone 2 by Yota Devices gives full Android functionality and the comfort of an e-ink display. This dual screen smartphone is one of the most innovative products to come out of this rather sedentary category. So, behold!

Who ever said you can't get the best of both worlds didn't see the YotaPhone 2 coming to reality. With this, we get to eat our cake, and the one next to it. And all we've got to pay for our troubles is £555.

1 The smartphone runs Android 4.4 KitKat and is powered by a 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 CPU coupled with 2GB RAM. Keep files in the 32GB internal storage.

2 The most boring information about the YotaPhone still isn't bad at all: 5-inch 1920 x 1080 442ppi Full HD screen protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3.

3 Don't be intimidated. For all its quirkiness, the YotaPhone 2 comes in a pretty ordinary size, with dimensions of 144.9 x 69.4 x 8.95mm. It weighs 145g, just like many of the other smartphones out there.

4 The 4.7-inch 235ppi e-ink display on the "other front" of the device (also protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3) has a refresh rate of 0.12 second, which makes staring at it kind to the eyes. This screen also shows notifications even when the smartphone is locked. "Tweet and be tweeted," Yota says. Ah, wisdom in the 21st century.

5 Let's talk about this e-ink screen some more. With up to 16 grayscale levels, it can show much detail even from images, including book covers and illustrations, and black-and-white photos used as wallpaper.

6 Somewhere sandwiched between the two screens is a 2,500mAh battery that supports wireless charging. Yota is pretty smug about the YotaPhone 2's battery life, saying the device "measures battery life not in hours but in days." Using "basic smartphone functions" extends power up to two days, while reading on the e-ink display can push to five days.

7 We said it's a real smartphone, right? Load the LTE-capable YotaPhone 2 with a nanoSIM, and connect to other devices via NFC, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac), and microUSB 2.0. Record Full HD videos at 30fps, or take pictures with the 8MP main and 2.1MP front cameras. (Now you know which way is front!)



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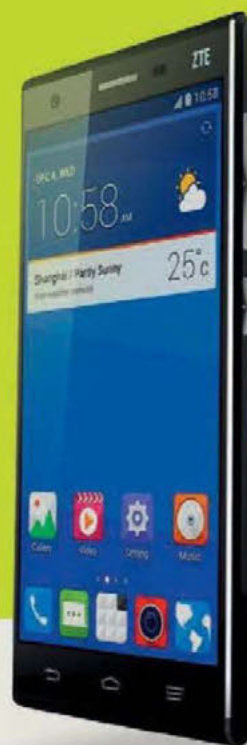
AVAILABLE AT SWISS GEAR, WRIST_POD, L TIMESTUDIO AND SELECTED DEPARTMENT STORES



Luxury at its best TONINO LAMBORGHINI 88 Tauri

The Tonino Lamborghini 88 Tauri is the successor to the ultra-posh \$4,000 Tonino Lamborghini Antares. As expected from anything bearing the iconic name, it is expensive and would probably not appeal to everyone—or everyone's wallets. But it is what's under the hood that really matters. The steel- and leather-clad 88 Tauri sports a 5-inch 1080p smudge-free touch display with Gorilla Glass 3 protection, a 2.3GHz Snapdragon 801 chipset paired with 3GB RAM, 64GB expandable storage, and a 20MP main camera with dual LED flash and an 8MP front shooter. Heavy users need not worry about running out of juice as the 88 Tauri is equipped with a beefy 3,400mAh battery. The device is also dual SIM- and LTE-capable. Only 1,947 units are up for grabs, so hurry before stocks run out.

Price: \$6,000



Do whatever, hands-free ZTE Star 2

Chinese telecoms equipment company ZTE is back with a device that could set the bar higher when it comes to hands-free operation. The ZTE Star 2 boasts a "system-wide voice control" function that the company claims will allow you to use the phone without tapping on the screen.

Encased in a thin aluminum alloy frame at 6.9mm, the flagship phone features a 5-inch 1080 x 1920 441ppi display with Corning Gorilla Glass 3 on top. The Android 4.4 KitKat-touting device is powered by a 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 chipset accompanied by a 2GB RAM. It has an expandable 16GB built-in storage. Photo junkies will enjoy the 13MP main shooter with a Sony sensor, f/2.0 aperture, and dual LED flash, along with the 5MP front snapper. The Star 2 is packed with a 2,300mAh battery under the hood.



Honor 6

Honor 6 Plus

FLAGSHIP CHALLENGER

Huawei Honor 6 and 6 Plus

GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH THE BEST FLAGSHIPS AROUND, THE 5-INCH HUAWEI HONOR 6 IS EQUIPPED WITH A 1.7GHZ OCTA-CORE PROCESSOR, 3GB RAM, 16GB BUILT-IN STORAGE (EXPANDABLE UP TO 32GB), AND 13MP REAR AND 5MP FRONT CAMERAS.

And just when everyone thought that the Honor 6 couldn't do better, Huawei followed up with the 5.5-inch Huawei Honor 6 Plus. At first glance, it looks like an upscaled version of the Honor 6 with slightly beefed-up specs: 1.8GHz processor and 32GB on-board storage. The real selling point of the device is its three cameras: an 8MP dual shooter at the back and an 8MP one in front. The Honor 6 Plus' rear dual cam allows refocusing after the photo is taken. And if you're a frequent traveler, you'd be pleased with the phone's active dual SIM feature.

Words LUIS ADRIAN HIDALGO

One VR to unite them all

RAZER OSVR

PC gaming company Razer brings disruption to the virtual reality world with the Razer OSVR. The Open Source Virtual Reality (OSVR), positioned by the company as "the Android of VR," is an attempt to standardize the hardware and software components of virtual reality. Aside from the open-source software, the OSVR comes with a headset that uses two different sets of lenses and a 5.5-inch 1080p panel, which runs at 60Hz and offers a 100-degree field of view using a gyroscope, compass, and accelerometer. For \$200, you can get the development kit and start tinkering with it.

Impressive workhorse
LENOVO P90

Go fast and get things done with the Lenovo P90. This impressive workhorse comes with a massive 4,000mAh battery, which powers its equally massive 5.5-inch 1920 x 1080 IPS display, keeping up with you from day to night. The P90 boasts to be the first phone to run on Intel's 64-bit 1.8GHz Atom quad-core processor with 2GB RAM. That's paired with an Intel 4G LTE modem, too. These two Intel features put this Lenovo phone on par with other premium smartphones in the market. There's also the 13MP rear with optical stabilization and the front-facing 5MP wide-angle camera.

Price: \$370

First to touch
NIKON D5500

Say hello to the Nikon D5500—the company's first digital SLR to feature a full-fledged touch display. Focus points by tapping or trigger the shutter by touching the 3.2-inch, 1.037M-dot vari-angle touch LCD at the back. You can access camera settings such as AF points, aperture, ISO, and autofocus mode from the screen, too. The D5500 wields a 24.2MP DX-Format CMOS sensor with Optical Low Pass Filter wired to an Expeed 4 image processor. A redesign is also on the list for the Nikon D5500, which sports a smaller body at 124 x 97 x 70mm, a lighter weight in 420g, and a re-sculpted handgrip for a surer hold.

Price: \$899.95 (body only); \$999.95 (with 18-55mm VR II lens); \$1,999.95 (with 18-140mm VR lens)



**New Blue Lens
Headlight**



RAIDER R150

**Premium
Color Debut**



**GET EXCLUSIVE R150
PREMIUM COLOR
JACKET**

**WITH EVERY
PURCHASE OF
THE NEW
RAIDER R 150**



Promo runs from Feb 1 - Apr 30, 2015
Per DTI IV-A No.:01-017 Series of 2015



**New Blue Lens
Headlight**



RAIDER R150

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**GET EXCLUSIVE R150
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PURCHASE OF
THE NEW
RAIDER R 150**



Promo runs from Feb 1 - Apr 30, 2015
Per DTI IV-A No.:01-017 Series of 2015



Flying badass DJI Inspire 1 Drone

Looking like something straight out of H.R. Giger's mind, DJI's Inspire 1 drone is a true badass in terms of design and function. For one, the Inspire 1 sports strong carbon-fiber jointed legs that lift out of sight upon take off, providing the camera an unrestricted 360-degree view of the world below. The machine's high-definition camera—held by a reimagined gimbal that turns in any direction—captures 12MP photos and 4K videos at 30, 25, and 24fps. You can use two remote controls to operate this evil-looking machine: one to control flight and another to control the camera. It also has the ability to fly safely indoors thanks to the built-in audio and visual sensors.

Price: \$3,000



Personal paparazzi TORQUING GROUP Zano Drone

What flies, takes footages, and fits in the palm of your hand? The Zano drone! Measuring 65 x 65mm and weighing 3.44g, this tiny drone is perhaps the smallest existing drone to date. The aerial camera has the ability to fly by itself and is smart enough to follow you around. It can also connect with iOS or Android smartphones via Wi-Fi to share images or videos instantly. When in "free flight" mode, Zano allows you to use onscreen joysticks on your smart device to guide its flight. The device comes with a 5MP HD video camera and a battery capable of 10 to 15 minutes of flying.

SPORTS ALL-ROUNDER Garmin Vivoactive

BE IT RUNNING, SWIMMING, BIKING, GOLF, OR WALKING, YOU CAN TRACK YOUR FITNESS ACTIVITIES EASILY WITH THE GARMIN VIVOACTIVE. The smartwatch comes with preloaded sports apps; it counts your daily steps, calories, and distance, too. There's a built-in GPS, as well as the ability to run third-party apps and display notifications from your iOS or Android phone. Design-wise, the Vivoactive showcases a minimalistic square face and silicon strap. You can have the Vivoactive for yourself by shelling out \$249 (\$299 if you want it equipped with a heart rate monitor).



SmartWatch 3

WEARABLES GONE VOGUE Sony SmartBand SWR10 and SmartWatch 3 SWR50

FOR CES 2015, SONY'S ANDROID-POWERED SMARTBAND AND SMARTWATCH 3 GET FASHIONABLE UPGRADES—NOTHING MORE. But this is something fashion-minded technophiles will surely welcome. First, you have a new stainless steel version of the SmartWatch 3 SWR50, and a holder to keep and customize the watch with any 24mm strap. Everything on the inside stays the same—a quad-core processor, 512MB RAM, and 4GB internal storage. Even the 1.6-inch 320 x 320 TFT display is back. Same goes for the SmartBand SWR10, which comes with a cobalt blue, curved-shape limited edition model, but no other hardware or software updates.

Words PATRICIA MAE CALICA

High-tech box

GOOGLE Cardboard



Virtual reality devices are not yet widely available, but fortunately, the good guys at Google came up with a simple yet very effective piece of contraption that makes use of readily accessible materials.

The Google Cardboard is a fold-out smartphone mount that transforms your device into a virtual reality apparatus. The VR effect is achieved through head tracking, which is made possible by utilizing your smartphone's accelerometer and gyroscope, enabling the user to interact with the environment projected on screen. It is made specifically for Android devices. But if you're an iOS user, don't worry; some iOS apps also work with the Google Cardboard.



Modular goes the PC

LENOVO ThinkCentre Tiny-in-One 23

Configuring traditional desktops can be a tedious task, but with Lenovo's ThinkCentre Tiny-in-One 23 monitor, it's as easy as 1-2-3. The Tiny-in-One 23 has a provision for attaching any of Lenovo's current Tiny PC systems, enabling users to mix and match modules depending on their needs. It also has a slot for an external optical disk drive (ODD). Both the Tiny PC module and ODD are secured in place by a single Kensington lock. The Tiny-in-One 23 can connect and switch sources, including a laptop, with just a press of a button.

Price: P15,990



Save space, get all the power

LENOVO ThinkCentre E63z

Powerful desktops need not be bulky. With an Intel 2.4GHz quad core processor, storage of up to 1TB HDD or 500GB SSD, and up to 8GB RAM, the 19.5-inch all-in-one Lenovo E63z desktop carries more than enough punch to get all of the day's work done. Stylish and slim at 37.5mm, the E63z is great for small businesses looking for a reliable workhorse that does not consume too much space. It comes with a rapid-charge USB 3.0 power cable, two USB 2.0 ports, integrated 3W stereo speakers, and a 720p front camera, as well as security features such as USB port disablement and Smart USB protection to prevent data theft and reduce risks of unauthorized use of storage devices.

Price: P24,990

Killer tablet DELL Venue 8 7000

Beware! The Dell Venue 8 7000 will leave you dying drooling with want. Touted as the world's slimmest tablet at 6mm, while sporting an 8.4-inch 2560 x 1600 edge-to-edge OLED display, the sexy Venue 8 7000 blows your eyes out of their sockets when you catch a glimpse of it. The tablet is also the first to integrate Intel's RealSense Snapshot Depth Camera, which in this case includes an 8MP rear camera paired with two 720p auxiliary ones that have Lytro-like features. Of course we can't forget the powerhouse specs: 2.3GHz quad-core Atom Z3580 processor, 2GB RAM, 16GB internal storage expandable up to 512GB, and the 5,900mAh battery.

Price: \$399



Capture the whole picture VSN MOBIL V.360° Camera

As you pedal your way down a steep slope or a tricky trail, recording what's happening at the sidelines and your back would probably be just as cool as capturing what's in front of you. Unfortunately, most action cameras today are still limited in taking the whole picture. Enter the VSN Mobil V.360°—a compact, waterproof camera capable of shooting 1080p stills and up to 30fps HD videos in a complete 360-degree arc. The panorama camera includes several sensors, including a barometer, an accelerometer, an altimeter, and GPS. Aside from that, it can connect to a Wi-Fi access point or use Bluetooth for immediate upload of videos via its accompanying app.

Price: \$399

Steals the spotlight TOSHIBA Portégé Z20t

There's a new hybrid beast in town and it has come to steal the spotlight from existing tablet-laptop devices out there. The Portégé Z20t is Toshiba's representative in the 2-in-1 device category. Housed within the 12.5-inch tablet is an Intel Core M chipset, 8GB RAM, up to 512GB SSD, and a battery that can last for 17 hours. It also features an attractive Full HD 1920 x 1080 IPS panel with reflective coating. But its most impressive feat is that Toshiba manages to pack all these in an 8.89mm-thin light frame. You can purchase the Portégé Z20t as a tablet for \$899 or with a keyboard base and digitizer at \$1,399.

Words PATRICIA MAE CALICA

ALWAYS IN TRAINING.




Nick Symmonds for Soleus Running

At Soleus, we know your training doesn't end when you cross the finish line. There's always another race to win, PR to set, or moment to make. That's why we created the Contender - For those of us who are always in training.

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Touchy music **B&O BeoPlay H8**

If you put a premium on your listening experience, then Bang & Olufsen's BeoPlay H8 wireless over-the-ear headphones will definitely suit your taste. The gesture-based touch control gives you full command of all functions, including turning the music on and off, answering calls, and switching the Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) on and off. The rechargeable and removable 800mAh battery can last up to 14 hours of ANC-enabled music playback via Bluetooth.

Price €499



Anytime, anywhere, all the time **PHILIPS Spotify**

Do you like playing your favorite tune on Spotify? You can now listen to it without a hitch using the Philips Spotify multi-room speakers. Just hit the play button to start listening to wherever you left off with your music. Using the Spotify Connect app allows you to select a song from the Spotify app and listen to it on any compatible device. It also allows you to blast sound through multiple speakers wherever you are in your home. The SW700M has two 2.5-inch full-range speaker drivers and two expanded bass ports, while the bigger SW750M incorporates two tweeters with bass ports and two 3-inch full-range drivers. The SW700M and SW750M have a price tag of \$129.99 and \$179.99, respectively.



Studio-grade audio in your pocket **FiiO X1**

Mobile devices today have their own integrated music players that get the job done pretty decently. But if you're a music junkie who breathes and bleeds music, then the FiiO X1 would be a great companion for you. The aluminum alloy X1 continues FiiO X5's classic scroll wheel (which is reminiscent of the iPod's) with textured rubber for a nice grip. It doesn't have an onboard storage but it handles up to 128GB microSD. You listen to lots of music in high-definition for up to 12 hours.

Price: P5,990

Curved is the new art Samsung S9W Curved SUHD TV

Samsung teamed up with designer and Fuseproject founder Yves Behar to create perhaps the sexiest TV that attendees of CES 2015 have laid their eyes on—the Samsung S9W Curved SUHD TV. The 82-inch S9W uses quantum dot technology, which utilizes nanocrystals to produce sharp and crisp images. Its 21:9 aspect ratio is complemented by very slim bezels and offers a much wider view. The TV sits on a cube that lights up and lifts when turned on, revealing the sound system. It also has a motor that allows you to adjust viewing angle.

The TV is powered by Tizen, Samsung's open-source operating system. Its features include a simpler, one-screen user interface, enhanced Samsung device connectivity, and the ability to work with Sony PlayStation Now, enabling you to do console-free gameplay via the TV itself. The S9W leads Samsung's new lineup of SUHD TVs, including JS9500, JS9000, and JS8500 in nine screen sizes from 48 to 88 inches.



Gorgeous pixels, flats, and curves LG 77EG9900 4K Flexible OLED TV

With four times the resolution of conventional Full HD 1080p TVs that we know well, LG's 77EG9900 4K Flexible OLED TV sure packs a punch. LG was quite generous with the technology they put inside this beast of a TV, going as far as including a feature that enables the TV to go from flat to curved with just a wave of the remote. An integrated 4K upscaler algorithm also allows for smooth rendering of SD, HD, and Full HD content to near Ultra HD quality. This 4K Flexible OLED TV is equipped with webOS 2.0, which LG says is more user-friendly and can boot faster. Personalize your experience by customizing the menus on the Launcher Bar.

SQUARE IS COOL AGAIN

BlackBerry Classic

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA



1 Meet the 3.5-inch 294ppi square touchscreen and the physical buttons surrounding it. Say hello to the familiar and comfortable physical QWERTY keyboard sporting 35 keys accompanied by a trackpad. Other physical dedicated keys are the Send, End (Power), Menu, and Escape keys on front, Lock/Power key on top, and volume rocker and Mute key on the side.

3 On the back is an 8MP camera that supports 1080p HD video recording at 30fps. The front shooter produces 2MP images and 720p HD videos.

4 Stay connected via Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n/an), NFC, and Bluetooth 4.0. Or if you like to be wired, the microUSB port sits pretty waiting for your cable. Connect your headset and listen to the FM radio.

2 The LTE-capable BlackBerry Classic keeps it simple with 16GB internal storage (expandable up to 128GB) and 2GB RAM. It is powered by a 1.5GHz Qualcomm MSM 8960 processor and runs BlackBerry 10 OS that comes installed with BlackBerry Hub.

5 Power through your day with the help of the non-removable 2,515mAh Li-ion battery that BlackBerry expects to last up to 22 hours in one full charge. And at 131 x 72.4 x 10.2mm and 178g, the Classic shouldn't weigh you down in your pocket.

Do you wish you knew how to quit QWERTY? BlackBerry says you don't have to. And with a wave of a wand, the BlackBerry Classic comes back from the dead to rescue touchscreen-hating email addicts everywhere. At \$449, you won't need to ride a time machine back to "when times were easy."



FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONE



Every purchase of **Beats Studio** wired entitles the customer to one (1) unit of **urBeats in-ear headphones**.



PROMO MECHANICS & GUIDELINES:

- Every purchase of Beats Studio wired (red, black, white, blue) entitles the customer to one (1) unit of in-ear urBeats headphone color white
- To claim, customer must e-mail the following to beatspromo@msi-ecs.ph
 - (1) Name on receipt
 - (2) Address (Shipping Address)
 - (3) Contact No.
 - (4) Name of Store and Branch purchased
 - (5) Scanned Photo of Valid ID
 - (6) Scanned Photo of Sales Invoice
- Customer will receive an e-mail confirmation within 48 hours once submitted information is validated
- Gift item will be delivered directly to the address given by the customer
- Redemption of gift item is until 60 days from end of promo period
- Gift item is non-transferable and non-convertible to cash
- Delivery of gift item is free of charge
- Promo runs from February 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015

Authorized Resellers

Abenson (Ascott BGC, Glorietta 1) **Astrovision/Astroplus** (Ayala Cebu, Greenbelt 5, Shangri-La Mall, SM Aura, SM MOA, VMall) **Avant** (Greenbelt 4, Trinoma) **Beyond the Box** (VMall) **E-tab** (SM San Lazaro) **Gadgets in Style** (Fairview Terraces, Marquee Mall, Shangri-La Mall, Trinoma) **Guanzon Mobitek** (CSI Lucao Dagupan, GMC Metro Plaza Dagupan) **iStore** (Ayala Cebu, SM Cebu) **The Landmark** (Makati) **Octagon** (ATC, Glorietta 2, SM Megamall, VMall) **PC Corner** (SM Fairview) **Robinsons Appliance** (Galleria) **Rustan's** (Makati, Shangri-La Mall) **Switch** (ATC, Glorietta 1, Marquee Mall, UP Technohub) **TCA** (Festival Mall) **Technoholics** (BF Homes Parañaque, Congressional QC) **Techsavvy** (Robinsons Metro East)



Lumia 535



Lumia 735

New name, same face Microsoft Lumia 535 and 735

Just like their predecessors, the Microsoft Lumia 535 and 735 look pretty similar to each other, with their rectangular shape and bright colors, which Lumia smartphones have been known for. If not for the differences in screen size and in the edges—the 5-inch 535 is more rounded than the 4.7-inch 735—you could barely distinguish one from the other.

Both the Microsoft Lumia 535 and 735 sport a 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor with 1GB RAM, and 8GB internal storage expandable up to 128GB. Add to that the free 15GB of cloud storage. The 735 has slightly better specs with NFC capability, as well as better cameras: 6.7MP rear and 5MP front shooters compared with the 535's 5MP rear and front snappers. Both devices run Windows Phone 8.1 with Lumia Denim.



Choose smart Torque Droidz Smart

If you're migrating from a different OS or simply craving the Android 4.4 KitKat experience but not so keen on spending loads of cash, then Torque Droidz Smart could just be the *smart* choice for you. The Droidz Smart features a 5-inch 854 x 480 196ppi FWVGA display, a 1GHz dual-core chipset paired with 512MB RAM, and an expandable 4GB internal storage. It also sports a 5MP main shooter and a 2MP front camera. If you like the flexibility of being able to use two mobile numbers, the Droidz Smart has you covered with its dual SIM capability with Wi-Fi, 3G, and Bluetooth connectivity.
Price: P2,999



M1 Note



MX3

UBUNTU-POWERED SMARTPHONES, COMING UP!

Meizu MX series phones

CHINESE MOBILE DEVICE MAKER MEIZU MADE HEADLINES WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH CANONICAL, THE COMPANY BEHIND UBUNTU, AND WAS RUMORED TO UNVEIL THEIR LINEUP OF UBUNTU-POWERED PHONES AT THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW. SADLY, THE COMPANY WAS A NO-SHOW.

equipped with a 1.7GHz octa-core processor and 2GB RAM, would be the first, together with the 5.5-inch MX4 Pro with a 2GHz quad-core Cortex-A15 and 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 chipset, and 3GB RAM.

Meizu's current lineup of MX series phones, the Meizu MX3, MX4, and MX4 Pro, as well as Meizu's M1 Note, run the company's Flyme OS, but variants that will run a combination of Ubuntu Touch and Flyme OS, touted as Ubuntu Flyme OS (UFO) are expected to be released early this year. Among these, Meizu's 5.5-inch M1 Note,

Words LUIS ADRIAN HIDALGO



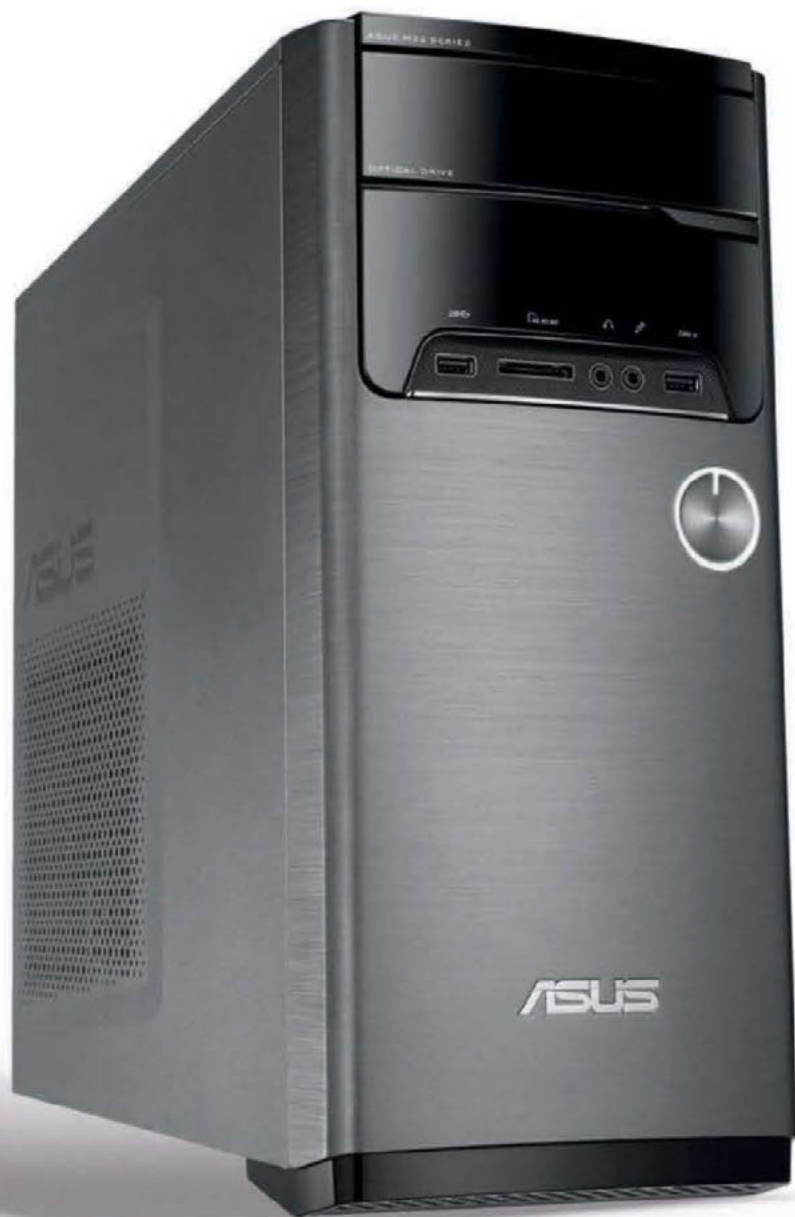
VELOCI



PULSE
Collection

LIVE THE SECOND.

SM MOA • SM SAN LAZARO • SM CLARK • SM PAMPANGA • SM MANILA • SM FAIRVIEW
SM DEPARTMENT STORE • ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE • L TIMESTUDIO



Productivity meets enjoyment ASUS M32

Touted by ASUS as a desktop built for productivity and enjoyment, the ASUS M32 draws power from a 4th-generation Intel Core i7 processor, expandable 2GB RAM, and a choice of NVIDIA GeForce or AMD Radeon graphics card. Heavy multimedia users need not worry, as the M32 comes with a huge storage capacity of up to 4TB. It is equipped with SonicMaster audio technology, as well as a built-in HDMI port for supersizing to bigger screens.



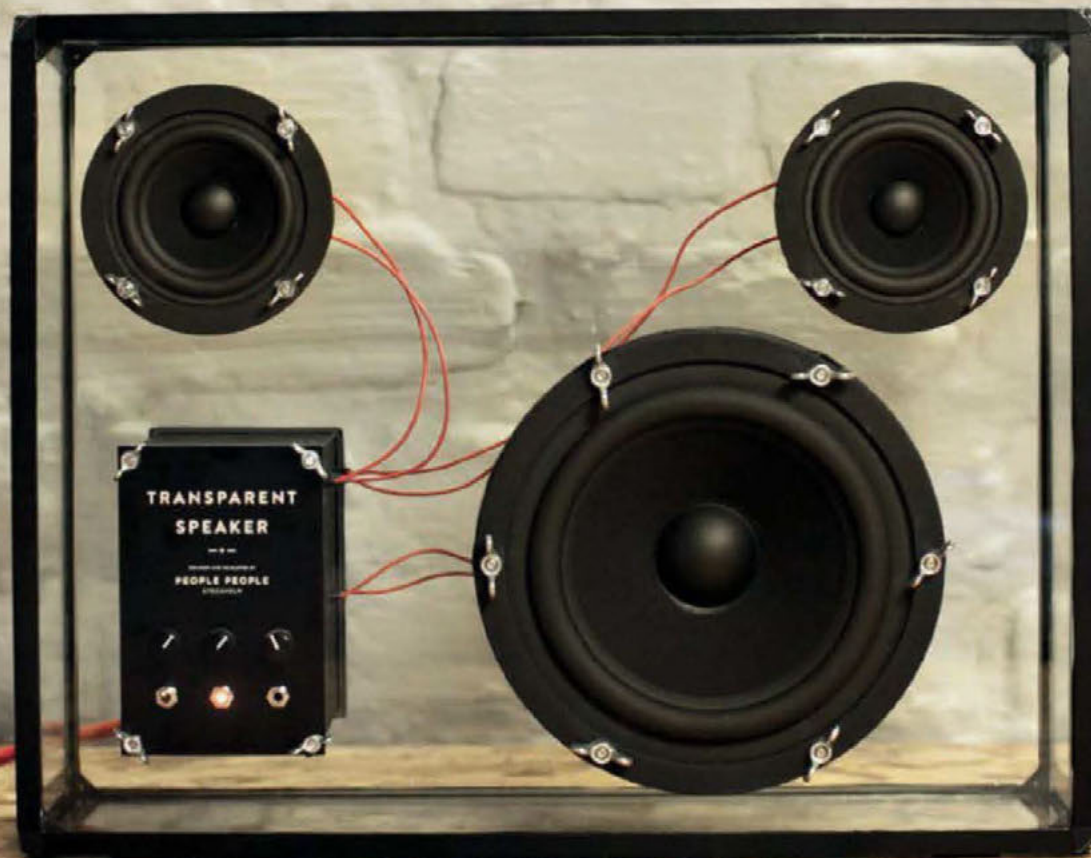
Beauty is the beast ASUS ET2323

ASUS' bet in the all-in-one desktop competition, the ASUS ET2323 series, offers everything you could hope for in a single package: beautiful display, sleek design, powerful processor and graphics, and large storage capacity. The ET2323 is equipped with a 5th-generation Intel Core i7 processor, expandable 500GB HDD and 4GB RAM, and an NVIDIA GeForce GT840M graphics card. It comes with a keyboard and mouse, as well as an ASUS AIO Subwoofer on select variants.

See through the sound
PEOPLE PEOPLE Transparent Speaker

You've always loved listening to music, but your condo's design makes it hard for you to find the right speakers that match. If only speakers were transparent, you say? The People People Transparent Speaker is exactly like that with its tempered-glass and aluminum enclosure. The two 3-inch full range drivers and 6.5-inch subwoofer deliver 80-100W of booming sound. The Transparent Speaker has a built-in amplifier, a "toaster slot" for Apple's Airport Express for wireless music playback via Airplay, and separate knobs for volume, treble, and bass adjustments.

Price: \$849



IT'S THE ONE!

Zeiss VR One Headset

IF YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS WITH VR TECHNOLOGY LATELY, YOU'D KNOW THAT VIRTUAL REALITY DEVICES OUT ON THE MARKET TODAY ARE EITHER TOO EXPENSIVE OR TOO CHEAP-LOOKING.

The Zeiss VR One Headset tries to fill in the gap. It is a great alternative over the pricey ones on the market, but only if you've got the device with the right size. The VR One supports various smartphones between 4.7 and 5.2 inches. But at the moment, the only available custom trays are for the Apple iPhone 6 and Samsung GALAXY S5. The next lineup of trays will be determined by developer and customer feedback.

Price: \$99

1 Break the rules **BOMBERG Bolt-68 45mm Chronograph**

You're a modern-day rebel. But who says dapper can't be your style? Cross the line, just like how the Bomberg Bolt-68 watch strayed from the over-beaten track of watchmaking. The audacious Bolt-68 features a unique bayonet system with trigger guard that allows the watch's body to detach from the case and be used as a pocket watch. The body is impressive in itself, featuring a bullhead configuration, PVD-treated steel case, knurling design, and Ronda calibre 3540D quartz movement.

2 Keep it moving **WOLF Cub Winder**

Keep your automatic watch ticking even when traveling with Wolf's Cub Winder. This single watch winder is something you can fit in your travel pack as it measures only 133.35mm wide, 114.3mm long, and 139.7mm high. Inside, your watch is held by a removable pod, which silently spins the timepiece 900 turns twice a day. The Cub is available in black, purple, white, orange, pink, and blue. **Price: P6,750**

3 Smarten up your watch! **MONTBLANC E-Strap**

There are luxury watches, smartwatches, and a daring few that combine the traditional with technology. Then there's the Montblanc E-Strap, an innovative strap that transforms your mechanical timepiece into a smartwatch without tinkering the gears and springs within. This is made possible by a 22.86mm 128 x 36 OLED screen fitted in place of the strap's clasp. The E-Strap shows calls, texts, and emails, tracks your fitness activities, and controls music playback. And while it is made for Montblanc's TimeWalker UrbanSpeed timepiece collection, the E-Strap can also fit any watch with the right size lugs. **Price: €250**

4 Sporty sophistication **SWISS MILITARY Hanowa Flagship**

Sports watchmaker Swiss Military Hanowa adheres to its philosophy of strength, functionality, and reliability throughout the years. And its Flagship Sapphire watch is no different. Featuring a silver dial, stainless steel bracelet, and scratch and water resistance, the Flagship reflects sporty and sophistication, while the Flagship's Swiss precision quartz movement, with the gents chronograph option, addresses the reliability you're looking for in a timepiece. **Price: P15,800**

5 Yachting ally **TECHNOMARINE UF6 Regatta**

Whether it's in a fast-paced regatta or a leisurely cruise, TechnoMarine's UF6 Regatta is the yachting buddy you can depend on. The Swiss-made timepiece sports a quartz chronograph movement, a steel case, a silicone strap, and a sapphire crystal glass cover. Giving you the advantage in a speed race is its special regatta movement—a 10-minute countdown that alarms every 60 seconds for the first nine minutes, every 10 seconds for the last minute, and every second for the last 10 seconds.



Words PATRICIA MAE CALICA



fitflop

SANDALS FOR SUPERWOMEN



Beneath our groovy new SURFA™ sandal is our 'magic' supercush, ergonomically engineered, triple-density MicroWobbleboard™ midsole. Because at FitFlop, we believe **WHAT'S REALLY COOL IS BEING COMFORTABLE.**



Travel

Seasoned jetsetter

Traveling, especially those that involve long-haul flights across continents, can easily go from a thrilling experience to a craze-inducing nightmare. And we all know that losing your cool while in transit is worse than losing your baggage.

The seasoned jetsetter, however, knows how to avoid that—simply by preparing.

You will be sitting on the uncomfortable seats of planes and terminals, usually for hours on end, so wear relaxed clothing that doesn't pinch your waist or restrict your movement. But you'll never know who you're going to meet when exploring new places, so keep it in style. The plaid (1)**Dockers Alpha Cargo long sleeves shirt** and the (2)**Dockers Alpha Cargo pants** go well together for a sharp, comfy look.

Then slip on your stone-colored (3)**Birkenstock Ramses thong sandals** (P5,250), which are perfect for moving through the airport and walking all day long. Accessorize the whole ensemble with the (4)**Lacoste L.12.12 watch**; it's simple and understated yet very masculine and powerful.

Let the (5)**American Tourister Cube Pop luggage** take care of your travel belongings with its durable, lightweight build. Although black is a classic and a no-fail option, you can opt for brightly hued bags that are easier to spot in the crowd.



Words PATRICIA MAE CALICA

Travel

Weekend
escapist

Sometimes, a weekend escape—a little road trip with the lady or a quick flight to visit friends—is all a man needs to refuel his drive and focus. And the key to a worry-free getaway are comfortable, versatile clothes and a compact travel kit.

Wear something that looks good for both rugged activities and casual meetings like the (1)**Dockers Alpha long sleeves shirt**. You can leave the sleeves down or roll them up.

A pair of (2)**READY jeans protected by Norton** (\$168) would be a good match for this top. The dark-colored pants sport stretch denim and a gusseted crotch, allowing you to move freely. It takes one step further by having an RFID-blocking fabric outfitted in two of its five pockets.

Designed for comfort and durability, the (3)**NikeLab ACG Flyknit Trainer Chukka SFB** (\$220) can tackle a day on the trail. These shoes are trimmed and finished to meet the worst weather imaginable. And if you're going for heavy-duty gear, might as well have the black (4)**Welder K24 3603 oversize watch** strapped on your wrist; it is water-resistant up to 100m and has a durable mineral coating to protect it from scratches.

A cup of coffee will surely be your poison of choice while waiting for your flight or cozing up in a pit stop. Bring the (5)**Mercy Supply x MadCap Coffee Kit** (\$250) with you to prepare a soothing brew whenever, wherever you are during your trip.





STANDOUT STYLING

Hyundai Sonata

THE SHINY, SEVENTH-GENERATION SONATA IS HERE AND IT'S DRESSED TO KILL, BUT WHAT'S UNDER THE HOOD IS EVEN DEADLIER. POWERED BY A THETA II 2.4-LITER MPI DOHC D-CVVT ENGINE AND MATED TO A SIX-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, THE 2015 HYUNDAI SONATA PUMPS OUT 176 HORSES AND 228NM OF TORQUE AT 4,000RPM.

The 2015 Sonata boasts a large, bold grille, new distinctive taillights, new exterior mirrors, smoother character lines, and a lowered hood design. According to Hyundai, more than half of the 2015 Sonata's body is made of Advanced High Strength Steel.

The steering wheel, instrument cluster, gear stick, and center console of the Sonata have been completely reworked for better ergonomics. The new model is also

35mm longer, 30mm wider, and 10mm taller than its predecessor, which means you have more stretch space inside.

The top-spec Premium variant goes for P1.898 million and comes with an electronic parking brake, Amplitude Selective Dampers, rain-sensing wipers, panoramic sunroof, blind spot detection, and memory settings for the driver's seat. The GLS variant is priced at P1.698 million. Both variants come with an 8-year or 160,000km limited powertrain warranty and are available in four colors: Ice White, Phantom Black, Aquamarine, and Polished Metal.

Words KATRINA RIVIERE-DIGA



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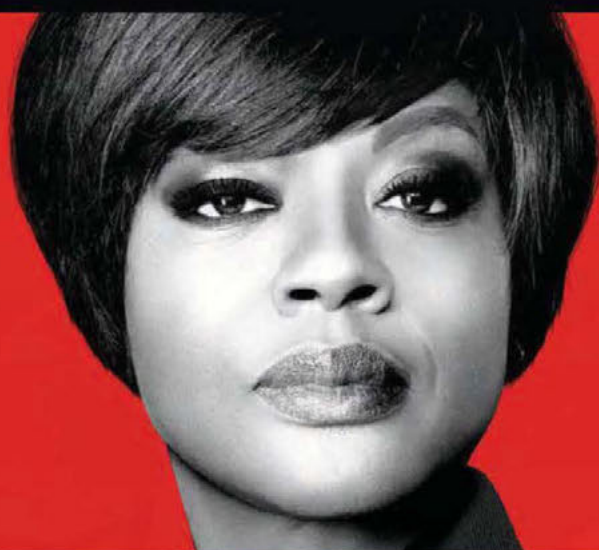
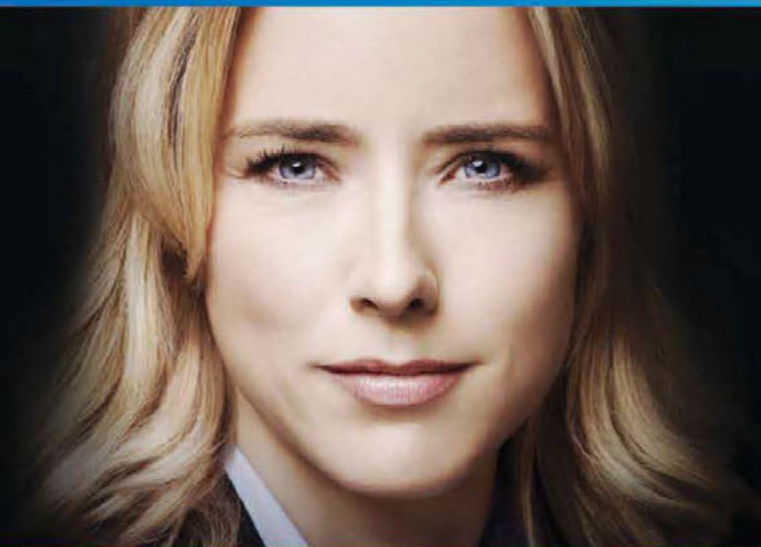
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SKYCABLE **CH 35**
CABLE LINK **CH 39**
CIGNAL DIGITAL TV **CH 60**
DESTINY CABLE **CH 62**

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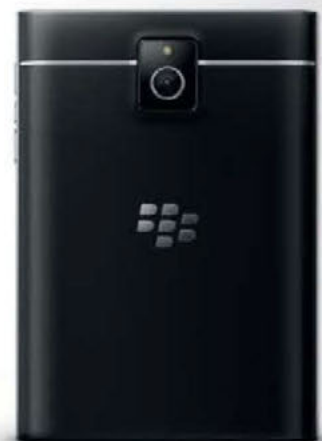
The powerful type

BLACKBERRY Passport

58



pg
PROVING
GROUND



WHAT WE
TESTED THIS
MONTH

February
2015

GEEK METER



63 SUBARU WRX 2.0 CVT



64 ASSASSIN'S
CREED ROGUE



SONY Xperia Z3 56

LG G3 Stylus 57

AMAZON
Kindle Fire HD 60
GIONEE GPad G5

GOOGLE Nexus 6 61

LENOVO Yoga
Tablet 2 Pro 62

PRODUCT TEST NO.
1616

Intimidating flagship

SONY Xperia Z3

Review by MARCOS SOSMEÑA

THE NUMBERS

Display

5.1-inch 1920 x 1080 Full HD

OS

Android 4.4 KitKat

CPU

2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon

Adreno 330 GPU

Memory

16GB internal storage, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM

Camera

20.7MP rear;

2.2MP front

Connectivity

LTE, NFC, Wi-Fi,

Bluetooth 4.0,

microUSB,

3.5mm jack

Price

P34,990


DIMENSIONS
146 x 72 x 7.3mm, 152g

I have always loved the Sony brand; the T68i was my very first mobile phone that featured the iconic Sony Ericsson emblem. Today, Sony smartphones are among the most innovative and competitive brands in the market.

Take Sony's Z-series flagship phones as an example. I got my hand on the Xperia Z1 the year it was introduced in the market and I've been satisfied with it. Then the Xperia Z2 quickly followed and now shortly after, the Z3.

The Z3 retains the glass-covered front and rear of its predecessor, and the aluminum band that holds it all together. It's not immediately noticeable but the Z3 is slightly smaller, slimmer, and lighter compared with the Z2. But I find the body too slippery, making it easy to drop the phone.

What I consider the Z3's greatest quality is its IP65 and IP68 rating, which makes it survive underwater up to 1.5 meters for 30 minutes. Sony incorporated a dedicated camera shutter button for underwater pictures. You can even listen to music while enjoying a hot shower.

SPEED SAYS

The Sony Xperia Z3 is Sony's most intimidating flagship to date, with a pleasant-looking display and promising features that give other Android premium smartphones serious contest. It's a bit pricey but competitive within its category.

GEEK METER



The new Sony PlayStation 4 Remote Play stands out as one of the more important features. You'll essentially be able to use your Z3 as a remote screen for your PS4, using the PS4's DualShock 4 controller to stay in the game. The Z3 is the first smartphone that lets you stream PS4 games to it—a very enthralling incentive if you already have the console and are desperate to play while others take their turn on the family TV.

Other smartphones have chosen to go with a quad HD display. Sony sticks to Full HD on the Z3, saying that the higher resolution isn't worth the tradeoff in reduced battery life. This makes sense, especially since Sony claims two days' worth of battery life.

The Z3 now wears front-facing speakers. This is a good improvement and makes it much enjoyable to watch videos since the sound comes out clearer and crisper. You need not cup your hands in an awkward way to redirect the sound.

While it may still have Sony's famous 20.7-megapixel camera, the autofocus feature can be a little off at times. But a quick tap on the screen fixes it easily.

PRODUCT TEST NO.
1617

Toned-down G3

LG G3 Stylus

Review by KATRINA RIVIERE-DIGA

THE NUMBERS

Display

5.5" 540 x 960 IPS LCD, 220ppi

OS

Android 4.4 KitKat

CPU

1.36GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 MediaTek MT6582 processor

Memory

8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM

Camera

13MP rear, 1.3MP front

Connectivity

Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0

Price

P16,990



It may have "G3" in its name, but the LG G3 Stylus is not a high-end handset with a stylus. Rather, it's a midrange device with toned-down specs and a more affordable price point.

While the G3 Stylus' innards aren't flagship-level, the phone still provides an overall fluid and responsive performance. Just don't expect it to be blazing fast.

The G3 Stylus shares the same design language as its flagship brother and fits in well with the LG G3 family. The curved design, tapered edges, metallic finish, and thin bezels add to the phone's premium look and feel.

The 13MP rear camera shoots and focuses quickly and takes decent stills in natural lighting. I did have a problem shooting moving subjects and those that aren't well-lit.

The 3,000mAh battery is above average; you can expect it to last a whole day with moderate to heavy use, and up to two days of non-intensive usage.

SPEED SAYS

Don't set your expectations too high with the LG G3 Stylus just because it's got "G3" in its name. It's clearly a midrange smartphone that looks good and performs as is expected of a handset in its class. The stylus is a bonus if you're into note-taking.

GEEK METER



The display is bright but not very crisp. It would have been nice to have a Full HD resolution given the screen size. The saving grace? Colors are pretty accurate and viewing angles are good.

Tucked on the upper right corner of the phone is the thin, cylindrical stylus that feels fragile. Thankfully, the response of the stylus on the screen is good so you don't need to press too hard on the screen and risk the pen getting bent or broken too easily.



PRODUCT TEST NO.
1618

The powerful type

BLACKBERRY Passport

Review by HERBERT AGUDERA

THE NUMBERS

Display

4.5-inch 1440 x 1440 453ppi LCD

OS

BlackBerry 10.3

CPU

2.2GHz quad-core Krait 400
Qualcomm Snapdragon 801, Adreno 330 GPU

Memory

32GB internal storage, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM

Camera

13MP rear, 2MP front

Connectivity

LTE, Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac), Bluetooth 4.0, NFC

Price

P35,790


DIMENSIONS
128 x 90.3 x 9.3mm, 196g

SPEED SAYS

The BlackBerry Passport is a great device. It is well-built and cleverly engineered, and has a good battery life. It certainly takes some getting used to. But once you do, you get a very powerful phone. If you spend most of your time composing emails, editing documents, and looking for a phone with a physical keyboard, the BlackBerry Passport is the perfect weapon for you.

GEEK METER



Smartphones with a physical QWERTY keyboard hold a very special place in my heart. Back when I used to blog, I wrote every entry on my Palm Treo600. When I got my BlackBerry Curve, I composed most of my emails, notes, and ideas on it.

When *Speed* asked me to review the new BlackBerry Passport, I knew I wanted to key in the entire review using its keyboard. And here it is.

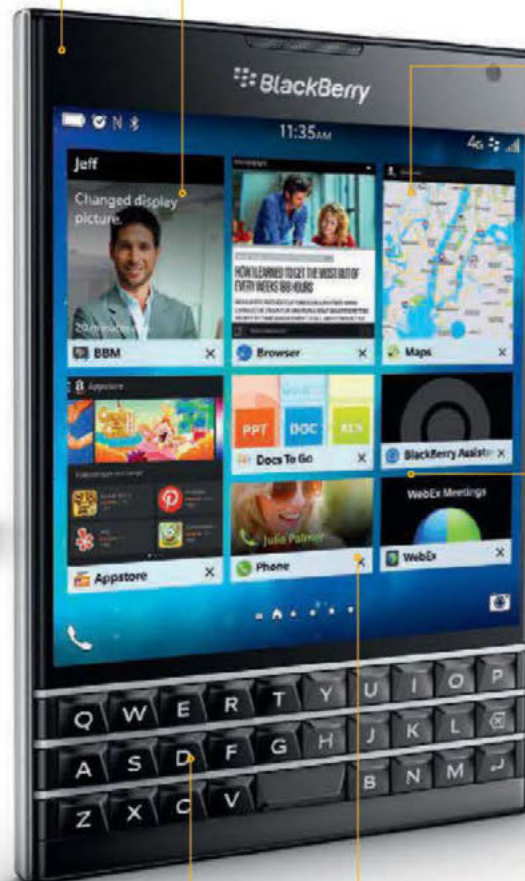
At first glance, the BlackBerry Passport looks a bit odd due to its shape and size. But the design and build quality is top notch. Everything about it screams elegance. The Passport is built around a metal frame with chamfered edges, seamlessly connecting the rear panel and the front glass.



The 13MP rear camera performs better than I expected. However, it sometimes has trouble focusing on near objects. The camera also tries to offer suggestions to improve my shots. If the camera detects a face, a clickable prompt appears at the top suggesting to turn on "Time Shift" mode, which captures burst shots of faces so I can choose the best one.

Previous BlackBerry devices had a four-row physical QWERTY keyboard. On the Passport, BlackBerry replaced it with a combination of a three-row touch-enabled physical keyboard and a virtual keyboard design. The whole keyboard also serves as a trackpad to scroll up and down on websites and other apps. This feature is useful when reading long articles and newsfeeds.

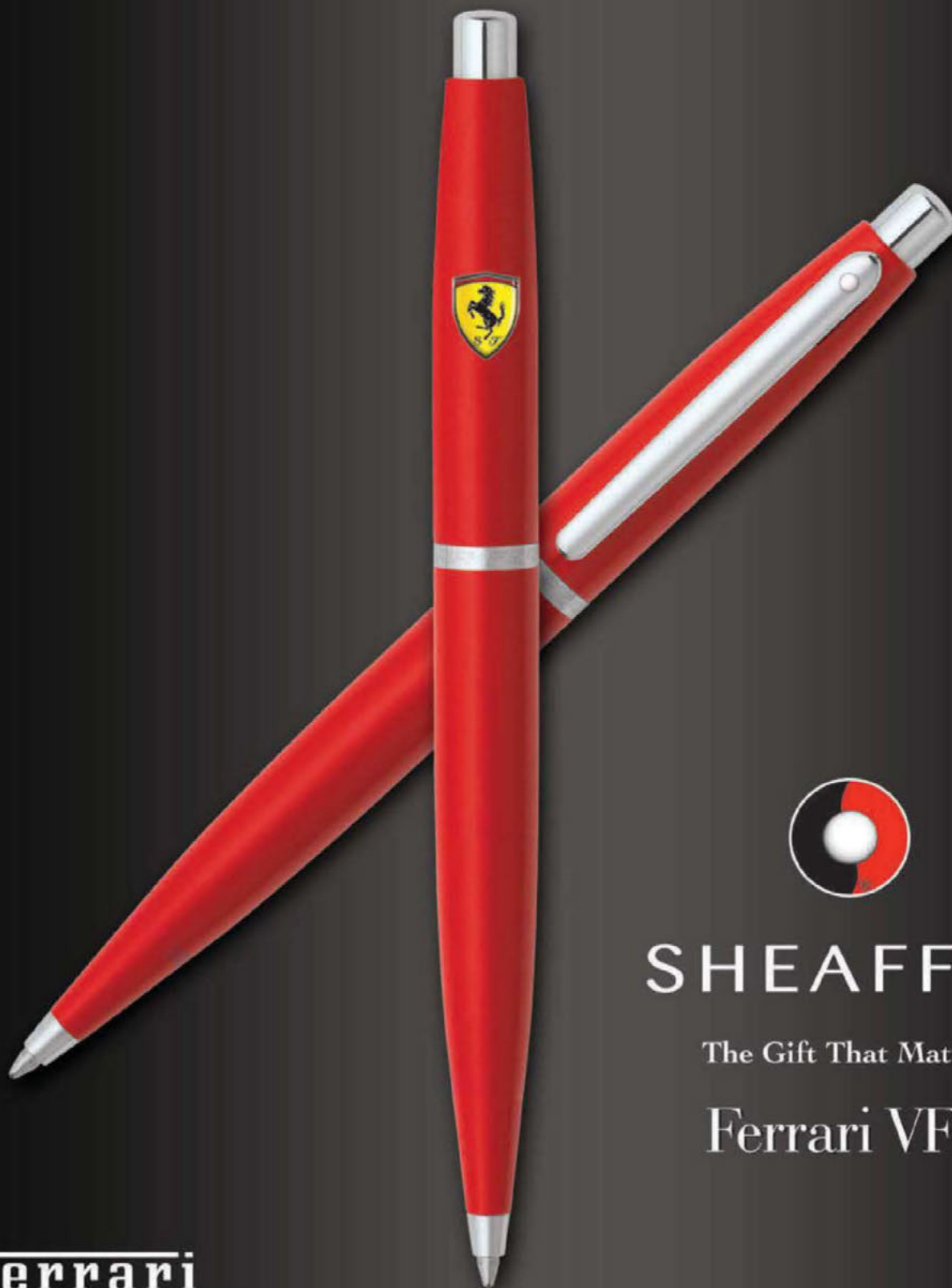
App selection for the Passport is still very limited. The new OS can run Android apps, but only those available on the Amazon Appstore; others you'd have to sideload. I tried this several times but some apps won't run properly on the Passport. I also tried sideloading Instagram for Android, but 95 percent of the time, the app crashed.



The Passport's square LCD is a gorgeous screen. Text is crisp and readable even without zooming in. Images and videos look great, too. Under direct sunlight, the screen performs well; I had no problem reading what's on the display.

The OS comes with the new BlackBerry Assistant, accessible by pressing a dedicated voice assist button on the right side before talking to it. The Assistant sometimes takes a long time to process a command. Once I tried setting up a reminder; it took forever that I canceled the voice assist and just typed in the reminder.

It is the most powerful BlackBerry device ever made. Switching between apps is flawless. Games downloaded from BlackBerry World run smoothly, but then again the choices are very limited. There are a few popular Android games available on the Amazon Appstore but most of what I tried are laggy and not optimized for a square display.



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PRODUCT TEST NO.
1619

THE NUMBERS

Display7-inch 1280 x 800
216ppi IPS**OS**Android-based
FIRE OS 4 Sangria**CPU**1.5GHz dual-core
+ 1.2GHz dual-
core processor**Memory**8/16GB internal
storage, 1GB RAM**Camera**2MP rear, VGA
front**Connectivity**Wi-Fi
(802.11b/g/n),
USB 2.0, 3.5mm
audio jack**Dimensions**191 x 128 x
10.6 mm, 337g**Price**

Starts at \$139

Targeted experience

AMAZON Kindle Fire HD 7

Review by GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

Kindle's e-Ink eReaders are probably the best in the world in terms of design and functionality. Their Android tablets, however, have always been a bit of a mixed bag.

Focused on content consumption, they don't offer the full range of Android features, apps, and functionality but give just enough for the average user to be more than satisfied.

Average user? If you're like most users who simply want a tablet for email, Web browsing, Facebook, and a few games combined with the ability to enjoy eBooks from Amazon, then something like the Kindle Fire HD could very well be all you need.

What you have to understand is that Amazon devices are all designed to work



primarily with Amazon's cloud services. This means consumers in the U.S. can best enjoy the music, movie, and other services available via the tablet. Amazon is a big cloud player and is even creating its own shows for streaming.

But if you're not accessing all these cloud services, there's not much reason to go for the Kindle Fire HD 7, or any other Kindle tablet for that matter. The app store and overall user interface are really focused on Amazon first, and other devices second.

Nonetheless, you get a nice set of specs for the money, and if you do have an Amazon subscription, you can choose from over 700,000 titles and thousands of audiobooks free for 30 days.

SPEED SAYS

Amazon's Kindle Fire HD 7 is a good all-around package for users who just need a beautiful and basic tablet. The Amazon app store isn't as expansive as Google Play, and users who don't subscribe to the Amazon ecosystem will miss out on a lot of content features.

GEEK METER



One handsome piece

GIONEE GPad G5

PRODUCT TEST NO.
1620

THE NUMBERS

Review by PATRICIA MAE CALICA

Display5.5-inch 720 x
1280 IPS, AGC
Dragontrail**OS**Android 4.4
KitKat, Amigo UI**CPU**1.5GHz hexa-core
ARM Cortex-A7
processor, Mali-
450 MP4 GPU**Memory**8GB internal
storage, microSD
up to 32GB, 1GB
RAM**Camera**8MP rear, 2MP
front**Connectivity**3G, Wi-Fi
(802.11a/b/g/n),
Bluetooth 4.0,
GPS/A-GPS,
dual SIM**Dimensions**157.3 x 77.6 x
7.9 mm, 104.6g**Price**

P9,499

Design-wise, the GPad G5 is one handsome piece of hardware. Many men will find the heavily cornered, slim, and unibody build of the GPad G5 suave and attractive. The metal accents add an air of durability and style to the phone.

But this smartphone's highlight would have to be its large display—bright, sharp, and with excellent viewing angles—which provides an enjoyable gaming and watching experience. The dual Yamaha speakers at the back complement the smartphone's screen with its loud and top-notch sound quality.

Gionee improved its own Amigo UI for the GPad G5. The icon placement and app drawer are similar to what you can find in stock Android. However, the icons look small and spaced out from each other on the large screen. There is no option to enlarge the icons or increase the number of

icons on the grid—a waste of screen space if you ask me.

The average battery life for the GPad G5's big display size and powerhouse chip is a bit of a letdown.

The battery lasts for a single day of using basic functions such as calling, messaging, and Web surfing—less after opening power-intensive games and applications.

The device's performance suffers because of its limited RAM. Sometimes the phone lags when too many apps are running in the background. I even experienced random frame drops while playing hardcore games.

The camera takes good images in daylight, while photos taken in low light appear bright but with visible noise.

SPEED SAYS

If you don't mind the average battery life and limited RAM, the Gionee GPad G5 is a great buy, with its slim design, improved UI, and powerhouse chip.

GEEK METER



PRODUCT TEST NO.
1621

Roll with a Cadillac

GOOGLE Nexus 6

Review by GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

THE NUMBERS

Display

5.96-inch 16:9
2560 x 1440
493ppi QHD
AMOLED, Corning
Gorilla Glass 3

OS

Android 5.0
Lollipop

CPU

2.7GHz quad-
core Qualcomm
Snapdragon 805,
Adreno 420 GPU

Memory

32/64GB internal
storage, 3GB RAM

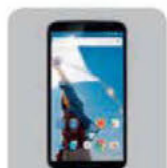
Camera

13MP rear, 2MP
front; 4K video
@ 30fps

Connectivity

LTE, NFC, Wi-Fi
(802.11ac),
Bluetooth 4.1,
microUSB 2.0,
3.5mm audio

Price
\$649



DIMENSIONS
82.98 x 159.26 x
10.06mm, 184g

With the Nexus 6, Google is committing its future to large-format smartphones because it stopped selling the Nexus 5 and the Nexus 7, two devices that sandwiched the Nexus 6 in terms of screen size. Large phone aficionados will rejoice at this device's amount of power and functionality. The Nexus 6 definitely elevates the game as far as flagships go.

This year's Nexus flagship is the biggest, baddest, and most expensive pure Android device that has come to market. Built by Motorola on the familiar platform used on its own Moto X, the Nexus 6 seems like an overachiever in every respect, with its gorgeous screen, massive 13MP camera, and sublime stereo speakers.

Here's the issue I have with the Nexus 6: it is the heaviest and biggest phablet in the market today. The genre-leading Samsung GALAXY Note 4 feels like a svelte device next to this bruiser, and even the upstart Apple iPhone 6 Plus, the device Google is clearly targeting, is slimmer, thinner, and lighter.

Based on power and size, the Nexus 6 is the Cadillac Escalade of Android smartphones. It has a muscular but understated (except for that big honkin' NEXUS logo) design held together by a quality metal frame.



The majority of the smartphone-using world will be perplexed at this behemoth's size and unwieldy dimensions, especially for one-handed use. With no option for a Nexus 5 in the market, most folks will likely scour the secondhand deals or go elsewhere for a flagship that fits just right.

The Nexus 6 has the latest, greatest Lollipop OS—a complete ground-up redesign of the Android user interface that's based on the sleek and responsive 'Material Design.' Right now, only the Nexus 6 and 9 ship with this version of Google's insanely popular mobile OS.

SPEED SAYS

While I love the build and technology behind this bold and audacious Nexus device, Google seems to have lost its way, diluting the Nexus brand and what it stands for. By making the Nexus 6 too big, expensive, and generally unattainable, Google is unavoidably pushing users away from the legacy of affordable, powerful, and forward-thinking devices, and into the arms of its OEMs.

GEEK METER



PRODUCT TEST NO.
1622

In its own league

LENOVO Yoga Tablet 2 Pro

Review by ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

THE NUMBERS

Display

13.3-inch 2560 x 1440 IPS

OS

Android 4.4 KitKat

CPU

Intel Atom Z3745

Memory

32GB internal storage, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM

Cameras

8MP rear

Connectivity

Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n), Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 3.5mm jack

Price

P33,999



Lenovo keeps on finding ways to make their tablet stand out in the market. Their latest strategy is to add a third, much larger variant in their Yoga Tablet series and throw in a built-in projector. This could very well be the first tablet with one, and it piqued my curiosity even more. Obviously, the Yoga Tablet 2 Pro is not intended to replace my everyday 7-incher, so what really can I do with it?

The Yoga Tablet 2 Pro is gigantic for a tablet. It is rather unwieldy and I couldn't get myself to bring it out of the house. At home, it seems better to use as a laptop replacement but that would require a separate keyboard. The Yoga Tablet 2 Pro is just too big to use in the same way you do your 7- to 10-inch tablet.

Computing is smooth and fast, and the large screen is beautiful to look at and a joy to watch on. These are all powered by a 9,600mAh cell, which promises up to 15 hours of battery life. When using the projector, a full charge could probably sustain two full-length movies.

SPEED SAYS

The Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro is not your typical everyday tablet. But for what it is—a 13-inch flat panel with productivity features—the Tablet 2 Pro is a reliable device for presentations, semi-portable home use, and movie watching. What could keep you on the fence is its size and price, which are bordering on laptop land. But at the end of the day, what you're getting is really a tablet.

GEEK METER



There's no denying that aside from its huge size, the built-in pico projector is the Yoga Tablet 2 Pro's novelty feature. I chose to maximize this for movie watching at home by projecting the display on an empty white wall. Granted that the wall is not more white-ish, the image is still impressively sharp—for a projector. But it's no HD.

The JBL subwoofer works wonders to the sound quality, and I like that Lenovo continues with the front-facing speakers. You'd still do better with a decent standalone speaker, but based on tablet standards, the Dolby-boosted audio is pretty good, solid, and loud. This positions the Yoga Tablet 2 Pro as an even stronger tool for setting up a makeshift home theater.

The projector is smart about adjusting the perspective of the projected image according to its angle to the source. I tried the projector against the ceiling while I'm lying in bed. When I moved the angle down from 90 degrees, the image shifted without warping so that it still looks dead straight to where I was. It was like having a floating TV.

PRODUCT TEST NO.
1623

Everyday rally

SUBARU WRX 2.0 CVT

Review by MIKE POTENCIANO

THE NUMBERS

Engine

1,988cc DOHC
16-valve,
4-cylinder,
4-stroke
turbocharged
petrol, sport
lineartronic AT

Power

264hp @ 5,600rpm

Torque

350Nm @ 2,400-
5,200rpm

Suspension

MacPherson strut
front, double
wishbone rear

Brakes

Ventilated front
disc with two-
piston caliper;
rear disc brakes
with single-piston
caliper

Safety

ABS, 7 airbags

Price

P1,888,000

Subaru is constantly evolving into a very desirable and sought-after sporting icon in motoring. The new WRX has all the same gear as its high-end brother, the WRX STI, but with a smaller engine and fewer electronic gizmos and body add-ons. This makes the car more affordable and to some, more appealing for everyday driving.

The sport lineartronic automatic transmission is a gem! The shifting is seamless and the ratios are well-sorted out to make sure the engine is in its most efficient torque curve. The Sport and Sport Sharp electronic modes give you all-out track day driving, while the Intelligent mode is good for your maximum fuel efficient runs.

The 264hp is delivered in a progressive manner without much lag when the boost arrives. The car feels light with the torque that the engine produces. The turbo is well-matched to the engine characteristics.

Once you get to highway speeds, the car transforms from rock-hard to compliant and firm. This car will make anyone a good driver and will not put you in a bind. The limit is way up there and I have never reached it on dry roads. Kudos to Subaru for sticking out with performance in mind.



DIMENSIONS

4,595 x 1,795 x
1,475mm, 1,528kg



The engine is showing revolutions of about 2,500rpm when you cruise the highway at 100kph. This is high, considering the engine has all the torque to pull another gear. Still, the car is very responsive when you shift, making you feel very much involved in driving.

With the symmetrical all-wheel drive system and boxer engine, the Subaru WRX has all the right ingredients for a great car. Once you drive it, you notice the hard suspension fitted. The low-profile tires don't help also. Anyone who is not accustomed to race or rally rides will be shocked at how this car picks up all the bumps and ruts on the road.

SPEED SAYS

The Subaru WRX is a real driver's car that rewards the owner with very good performance and handling. For people who would need to save money and decorate it according to their needs, the WRX will be hard to beat.

GEEK METER



INTERIOR

1 The seats look good. The design and fabric material are just right for everyday driving. The design still provides very good side support with shoulder braces for high-paced driving. The 60/40 rear seat split lets you load longer and heavier stuff in the rear compartment. There is also an increase

of 12 cubic feet of trunk space.

2 The great-looking, red-stitched steering wheel has all the proper switches to keep your hands on the wheel. For less techie guys, make sure you familiarize yourself with them before you drive. Quick steering is also built in the system.





Expansion or full title?

ASSASSIN'S CREED ROGUE

● Review by ERIK PAOLO ESCUETA



VITAL STATS

Platforms

PlayStation 3,
Xbox 360,
Windows

Developer

Ubisoft Sofia

Publisher

Ubisoft

No. of Players

1 Player Offline

Official Site

<https://www.ubisoft.com/en-US/game/assassins-creed-rogue/>

PlayStation
3
REVIEWED

At a glance, *Assassin's Creed Rogue*, the latest installment in the series, sounds highly promising. Aside from retaining predecessor *Assassin's Creed IV Black Flag*'s hugely popular and immersive implementation of seafaring combat and exploration—with some improvements for added enjoyment—the premise of playing from the Templar perspective is definitely an intriguing and interesting proposition, which also introduces some new elements to the series' trademark open-world stealth-based gameplay.

However, *Rogue* ends up feeling more like an expansion pack rather than a full game due to a relatively short and predictable main storyline, the removal of its once-bountiful multiplayer component, and the carry-over of some technical bugs and glitches, therefore questioning its value as a full-priced title.

THE DARK SIDE

The historical story of *Rogue* puts you in the shoes of Shay Patrick Cormac, a fledgling assassin of the Assassin brotherhood. He joins the Templars after disagreeing with the methods of the former in securing the Precursor artifacts, which endangered innocent lives.

To be fair, the story does pack a punch when it needs to—the transition of Shay sheds some new light on the Templars' motives and philosophies, while branding the Assassins as morally ambiguous antagonists. It's a refreshing change of pace, even if the characters, including Shay himself, fall into stereotype rather easily, consequently causing the plot to become predictable.

Another plus to consider is that you can play *Rogue* without having prior knowledge of *ACIII* or *ACIV Black Flag*, although it is highly recommended that you do.

As for the modern-day storyline, it's essentially a continuation from previous games. After you, the model Abstergo employee, unknowingly unleash an Assassin-sourced virus by accessing Cormac's memories, you're implicitly recruited by the Templars to help fight against the Assassins. While that sounds like a good start, it's actually pretty dumb in both execution and performance, not providing any significant incentive except for getting back to playing as Shay.

On the bright side, the hidden files you can unlock and discover provide a lot of interesting backstory to the events thus far in the present day, even if you have to play a relatively confusing three-dimensional puzzle minigame to get most of them.

EXPANDED EDITION

While the storylines in *Rogue* are technically hit-or-miss, the gameplay fortunately remains just as good and as enjoyable as it was in *Black Flag*. Even better, *Rogue* throws in some enhancements to sweeten the gameplay further.



The historical story of *Rogue* puts you in the shoes of Shay Patrick Cormac, a fledgling assassin of the Assassin brotherhood.



PROS

- Seafaring gameplay still as fun and enjoyable as ever
- New enhancements and events keep things fresh
- Controls and combat remain highly intuitive and simple to grasp
- It's interesting to see the Assassins as the bad guys this time around
- Even more sidequests and places to visit and explore than before

CONS

- Main story missions are quite short in length and number
- Modern-day storyline is both awful and a bore
- Multiplayer modes have been removed for no reason
- Technical bugs and glitches are still around from recent games

For example, in the ocean-based ship battles, the new Puckle Gun—basically a rapid-fire machine gun—lets you rip holes in smaller ships at a faster pace. And the use of Burning Oil provides better rear cover than the sea mines of yore.

A new in-game event on the seas has been added as well: enemy ships can now ram and board you, putting you in a defensive position that adds some spice to the festivities.

As for landlubbing activities, they're mostly unchanged with missions and collectibles abound for the taking, albeit having mostly superficial differences now that you're a Templar. Even the combat techniques and moves of Shay are relatively similar, and still just as easy and intuitive to execute as ever.

Much to everyone's amusement, since you're now a Templar, you can be stalked and attacked by Assassins from the shadows with a detection system similar to the multiplayer modes of past games, with the sound of rapid heartbeats in tow.

Which is the highlight, really, of *Rogue*—if you thought *Black Flag* had more optional quests and missions than *ACIII* by a mile, *Rogue* ups the ante even further by a factor of a hundred, and then some. It'll take quite a while to finish every single point of interest on *Rogue*'s world map, giving it a huge boost in overall playing time.

THAR SHE BLOWS!

However, if you opt to finish the main story missions first, sadly, it'll be over before you know it. It's heavily apparent that *Rogue* is more of a tie-up of recent *Assassin's Creed* games thus far—including new-gen title *Unity*—by the way of several character cameos and references.

The thing is, by doing so, the pacing is broken somewhat by the rapidly moving timeline of Shay's memories. I played at a leisurely pace and did only a few optional missions, and yet was able to finish the game in a few evenings. Seasoned veterans will tell you that this is not exactly up to par.

But one major reduction that doesn't sit well with me is the removal of the multiplayer modes, which were actually fun and provided a ton of additional replay incentive. It makes *Rogue* feel even more like a filler title, a predicament worsened by the fact that a lot of technical glitches and bugs are still present from *Black Flag*. More than once I couldn't progress in a mission because I either got stuck in place or my target did, physics issues notwithstanding, and the sensitivity of free-run can still be cumbersome during chases.

SPEED SAYS

Assassin's Creed Rogue takes the good from its predecessors' single-player offerings, and attempts to make it all better with relative success. It can easily become a time-sink if you try to achieve every single side quest on hand. In contrast, the main storylines are neither long-lived nor deep enough to warrant full attention. Curious gamers may find *Rogue* worth the asking price, but those new to the series will definitely find it less than appealing.

GEEK METER





LEAVING MARKS IN THE COMMUNITY

NDAA2014
NATIONAL DIGITAL ARTS AWARDS 2014

**REDEFINE
RECREATE
REVOLUTIONIZE**

The Technological University of the Philippines unveiled a long mural dubbed as "Wall of Controversy" composed of winning artworks from its students, including finalists from the National Digital Arts Awards, including Joyce Camille Dionisio, Allenia Abigail Cañeda, John Ace Hingada, and Jomari Patrick Canda. The mural also has the artwork of our first place winner in the Student - Category Kyle Amiel Balagtas.

Sponsored by the prominent Rain or Shine Elasto Paint and through the efforts of the Manila City government, the mural is an attempt by the school to promote and to celebrate the talent and innate skill of their students.

With digital arts and graphic design becoming a burgeoning career for students to delve in, activities like this and the National Digital Arts Awards plays a major role in honing and inspiring the youth to pursue their talents whilst being a contributing member of society.

Regarding the National Digital Arts Awards (NDAA), expect a bigger and more inclusive NDAA 2015. Details regarding the nationwide contest will be released as soon as they are available.



The Technological University of the Philippines unveiled a long mural dubbed as "Wall of Controversy" composed of winning artworks from its students, including finalists from the National Digital Arts Awards. It was sponsored by Rain or Shine Elasto Paint through the efforts of the Manila City government



Reaching Out to Future Leaders

The National Digital Arts Awards (NDAA) Campus Caravan Team posing with a group of Fine Arts students from the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP). TUP was the first stop of the NDAA 2014 Campus Caravan



Hotspot

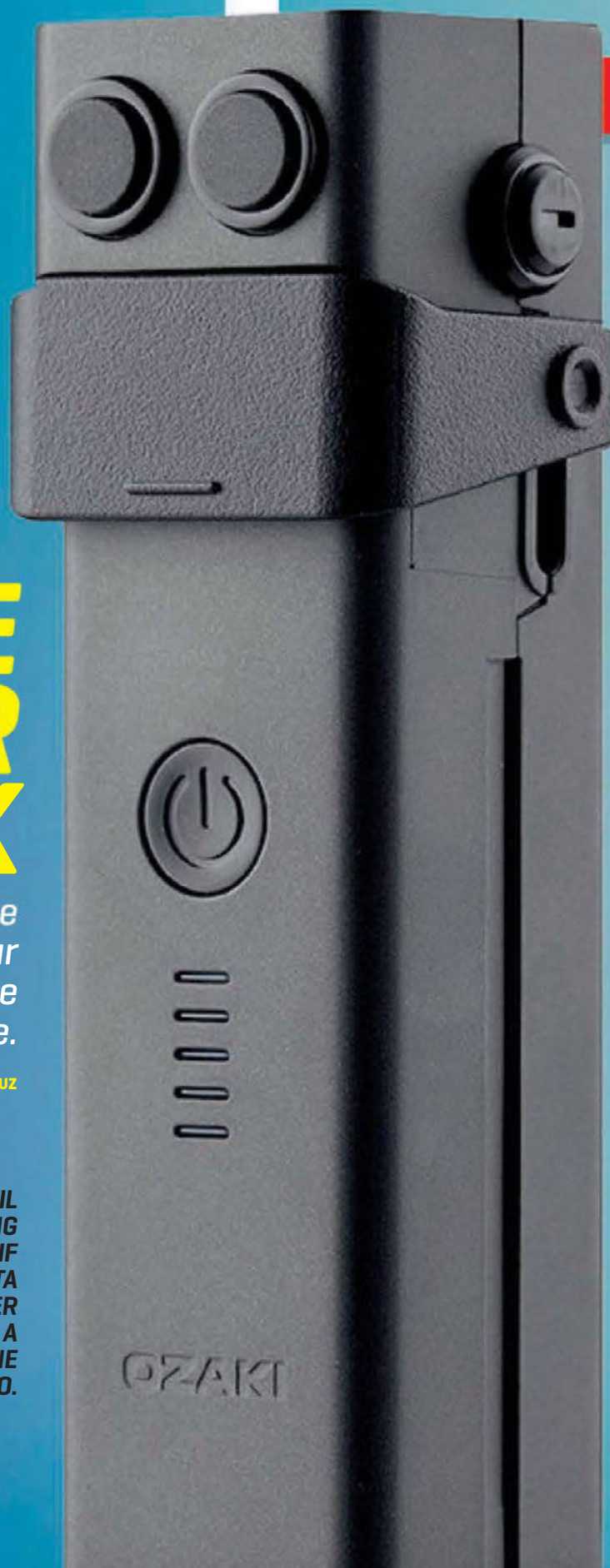
FORM
FACTOR

TAKE THE POWER BANK

*If you're going to be
seen recharging your
smartphone, better be
seen in style.*

Words **RON CRUZ**

POWER BANKS ARE A NECESSARY EVIL NOWADAYS. AS LONG AS YOU'RE USING A SMARTPHONE, AND ESPECIALLY IF YOU ALWAYS HAVE YOUR MOBILE DATA ON, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A POWER BANK. GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN A FULL CHARGE OF YOUR CELLPHONE WOULD LAST YOU A DAY OR TWO.



BUT YOU DO NOT NEED TO SETTLE FOR A BULKY AND BORING POWER BANK. THERE ARE PLENTY OF STYLISH AND INNOVATIVE OPTIONS OUT THERE TO CATER TO YOUR MULTIPLE WANTS—AND PERSONALITIES.



Xiaomi Mitu

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Just because your mobile device is all business does not mean that your power bank has to be all serious, too.

The Xiaomi Mitu power bank adds a touch of whimsy to your battery charging needs as it showcases the China tech brand's irresistibly cute mascot, complete with LED bunny ears. Aside from livening up your workspace, the Mitu adds about 5,200mAh of extra battery life to your digital devices.

AirborneTech AT Tough Rock

Living an active outdoor lifestyle leaves little room for dead phones and flimsy power banks. That's why Philippine-based company Airborne Technologies willed the AT-800 Tough Rock to life. This hardy power bank packs a whopping 10,000mAh of battery power and is waterproof, sandproof, and shockproof so that it withstands and endures all the extreme conditions you subject it to. The AT-800 is housed in a hard plastic shell and comes with a built-in LED flashlight.



emie Devil Volt

If you're looking for a power bank that's stylish and elegant, and shows a bit of your naughty side, check out emie's Devil Volt. This horned power bank has 5,200mAh of juice and is small enough to fit in most purses. It won't stick out like a sore thumb though, as it comes in four metallic colors that go with practically any outfit, whether you're going clubbing or just catching up over a cup of coffee.



Kimtigo KTD-501

While not exactly pocket-sized, Kimtigo's KTD-501 stands on its own as a power bank because of its unique bear-shaped design.

Made to resemble a polar bear, the KTD-501 is impeccably crafted with a smooth, white porcelain look that snugly embraces your gadgets. Under the hood, the power bank adds 5,200mAh of battery life and boasts an intelligent phone recognition feature that adjusts the output level based on the connected device, making each charge the optimum one for your smartphone.



Ozaki O!Tool Battery D26

To call Ozaki's O!Tool Battery D26 power bank a 'cute' one would be a gross understatement. While its charging capacity of 2,600mAh is a bit underwhelming, the O!Tool Battery D26 makes up for it in the elegance of its design.

The pocket-sized charger resembles a minimalistic robot and comes in five different color combinations. The robot's mouth doubles as the USB slot to plug in your devices and there are five LED indicators that show remaining battery life.



Veho VPP-004-AS Ayrton Senna Pebble Smartstick+ 3000mAh

The important thing with power banks is to actually have them on you when the need arises. Veho's Pebble Smartstick is a gorgeous emergency battery pack that's designed to always be with you.

The pocket-sized Pebble comes in a sexy, polished, titanium gray exterior with a protective port dust cap. This is attached to a carabiner so you can clip it on to your belt or rucksack. With each purchase of the Pebble, Veho makes a contribution to the Ayrton Senna Institute as well.



Mimoco Darth Vader MimoPowerBot

Everyone's favorite Sith Lord makes an appearance as a power bank, thanks to Mimoco's collaboration with Lucasfilm. The Darth Vader MimoPowerBot is a no-frills external battery that is filled with 5,200mAh. It can charge all kinds of 5V devices that use a USB, and comes with a charging cable with various converter tips and a handy carrying case.

The MimoPowerBot won't be powering any Death Stars in the future, but this is a start.

Mipower Power Tube 10000

For retro fans, Mipower brings a classic look to an otherwise new invention. The Power Tube 10000 sports an innovative appearance of a dry cell battery, complete with brand decals and positive /negative ends. Around the size of a soda can, the power bank has a smart battery meter, indicating the capacity on the side. The Power Tube 10000 also has built-in dual USB output connectors, so you can charge two devices at the same time with its sizable 10,400mAh capacity.



Zendure A5

Durability and reliability is the name of the game with Zendure's A5 power bank. The design goal is straightforward: to have an external battery tough enough to go anywhere, but looks good enough to want to be taken out anywhere.

This Zendure delivers in spades as the A-series power banks look gorgeously sleek in their dual injection molding, ABS/PC composite reinforced shell. The A5 is built like a tank and will power your mobile devices for hours on end with its 15,000mAh of juice.

MUSIC SOURCE

The logo for Wave 89.1 features the word "Wave" in a large, stylized, cursive font with a yellow-to-orange gradient. Below it, the number "89.1" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is dark with red and orange wavy lines.

GEE

FUNNY
SIDE
UP

CHIQUI

WEEKDAYS
6AM TO 9AM

WWW.WAVE891.FM



WWW.WAVE891.FM

One OS to rule them all

Unifying the codebase: looking at a single OS for multiple platforms

Words **GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA**

It is fascinating to see how desktop operating systems have evolved from the command line of the '70s and early '80s, to the more prevalent icon- and folder-based user interface we see today. Designed mostly for use with a keyboard and mouse, the icons and windows are elements many believed would never be replaced.



As a result, the early attempts to create mobile operating systems for PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), tablets, and smartphones were simply shrunken down versions of what one would find on the desktop.

Mobile devices ushered in the era of touchscreen and styli, which tried to replace the mouse and keyboard but lacked the granular control and precision offered by these peripherals. Early mobile operating systems such as Windows CE and Palm relied heavily on a stylus to simulate the mouse as a pointer but executed typing on small screens poorly. The result was the ability to use 'Graffiti' or handwriting recognition as a form of input, which was another trade-off.

Smaller but not new

For the most part, mobile operating systems and desktop operating systems have been nearly identical even if many features that feel natural on larger monitors or screens look absolutely cramped and difficult to use on mobile devices.

Companies such as Microsoft, for instance, tried time and again to repurpose Windows to tablets and smartphones. But user's expectations of having a similar experience on the mobile version were not met.

The problem was a result of multiple issues: mobile devices used different types of processors than PCs; they had limited screen real estate; their input methods were similarly stifled; and connectivity was a pain point.

While apps and programs running on mobile devices were smaller than their desktop counterparts, they were also running slower and could achieve only a fraction of what the larger ones could accomplish.

Programming for mobile was also different from programming for desktops, and this caused a lot of confusion with both developers and users.

Changing the mobile game: iOS

The iPhone and its user interface really changed the game because they focused on multi-touch and introduced gestures to compensate for the lack of input options. Pinching to shrink or zoom in an item, swiping to navigate, and tapping to access all made sense for touchscreen interaction.

The iPhone and the iPad also offered mobile versions of desktop apps but purely on a touch level, so while functionality was limited, ease of use and portability was highlighted.

It has been seven years since the iPhone was introduced and we still use the icon-based and multi-touch user interface to interact with phones and tablets. Even competing systems such as Android and BlackBerry have adopted this interface but added their own refinements.

Off the beaten track: Microsoft

Microsoft, on the other hand, completely rebooted its Windows Phone OS. Instead of icons and folders, they used live tiles and a new Metro-based approach. While this system seemed to work well on their Windows Phone devices, Microsoft went a step further and tried to push this to the desktop.

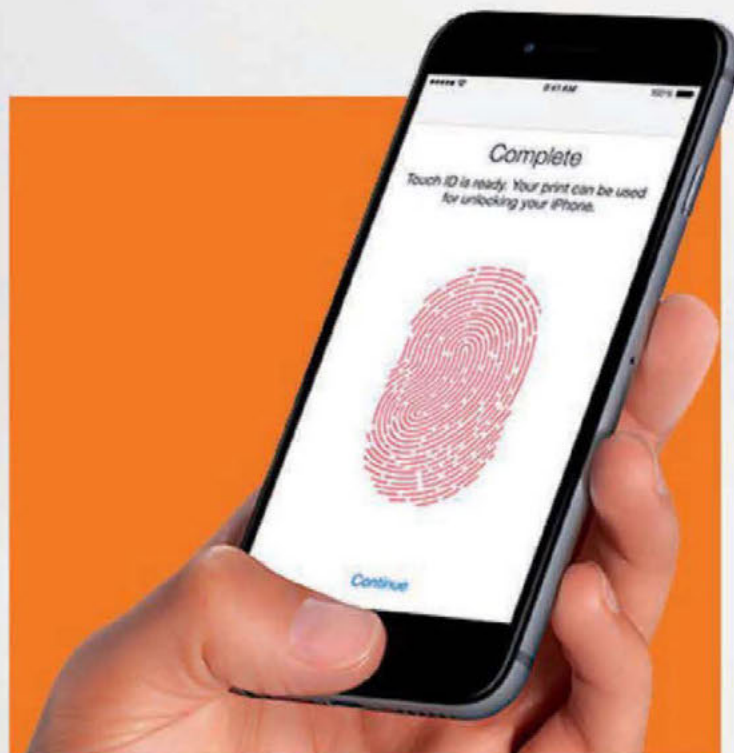
The result was Windows 8, which in retrospect was one of the most divisive operating system releases that the company put out. Hoping to migrate millions of users around the world away from older Windows 7 systems (and hopefully get them to buy new touch-based hybrid devices), Windows 8 pushed the look and feel of their mobile OS to the desktop.

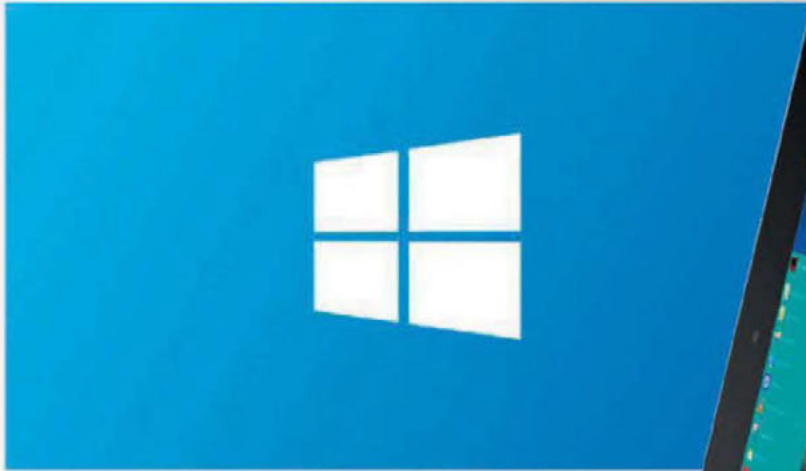
While Windows 8 looked innovative and worked well enough on tablets, it did not translate strongly to the desktop, where the mouse and keyboard were preferred to multi-touch gestures.

There was also a big problem with the new Metro apps, which were written in a different codebase than classic Windows applications that everyone was accustomed to using. Things became confusing when two versions of popular applications needed to be installed on the same machine, and users were getting bounced back and forth between the new interface they were forced to learn and the old interface that they were comfortable with.

It was clear that Microsoft's aim was for an all-new look and feel across all their devices. While this made sense on the surface, translating the idea to all their partner companies, including HP, Dell, Acer, and Asus, didn't go too smoothly.

Yes, it was possible to write applications that, with some slight rejigging, would work identically on the desktop, tablet, and smartphone. But the wide range of processors, screen sizes, and resolutions made it extremely difficult to have one OS interface across various devices.





Is Windows 10 the solution?

Microsoft realized that they couldn't force this on users, many of whom were paying extra to install Windows 7 on their new devices and staying away from touchscreen devices. The company's solution under new CEO Satya Nadella was to quickly introduce Windows 10 as a whole new operating system that brings back the desktop while retaining the tiles as an option.

More importantly, Windows 10 looks like it will allow users to choose how they want to interact with their devices, with either a full desktop mode or a touchscreen mode, as well as a combination of both.

Apple marries desktop, mobile

On the other side of the fence, Apple has grown its OS X desktop operating system alongside its iOS operating system with some similarities in apps, look, and feel, as well as functionalities.

Apple has made it clear that iOS will not become a desktop OS. But while both desktop and mobile are separate products, they will be able to interoperate with each other through various Handoff and Continuity features.

For someone who uses both an iPhone and a Mac desktop or notebook, linking the two devices together will allow various 'sharing' of resources and features. Examples of this 'better together' approach include the ability to take and make calls on a Mac desktop or notebook using the iPhone's cellular connection. Same goes for messaging and FaceTime calls, which can work on either.

Continuity also allows you to call any number on a website using your iPhone, and have a conversation using the mic and camera of your desktop.

Handoff features include the ability to start a task—say, reading a website or typing a document—on one device and seamlessly carry on with it using another. This is great if you start typing an email on your iPhone and by the time you reach your desk, you can continue it on the iMac or the MacBook Air right where you left off.

Apple's approach is to keep each operating system separate. But it sees the wisdom in sharing features and creating a more expansive and user-focused ecosystem for those who have both mobile and desktop products.



Is unified OS the future?

What is the future of unified operating systems? Right now, it is hard to tell. The divide between what people use their notebooks and desktops for and what they use their tablets and smartphones for is still pretty big.

The good news is that mobile processors are becoming more powerful and are getting to the performance levels of their desktop counterparts.

Software makers are also ensuring that their applications scale nicely on whatever devices are being used, so it is likely that we will have a future where using one OS on various devices may happen. But I think it will take a long time before everything aligns toward this reality.

Kiss your cash goodbye

Is it time to cash in on mobile payments?

Words **GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA**

The mobile wallet and NFC-enabled touchless transactions have long been promoted as the future of payments. The idea that a smartphone can efficiently and securely replace cash, ATM, debit, and various discount and membership cards sounds almost magical. But is it a pipe dream way beyond reality?

The technology is there. Near Field Communications (NFC), a low-powered version of Bluetooth, allows devices and terminals to quickly authorize payments. Many devices are connected to the internet, so they can link up in real time to verify user identities and enable transactions. Smartphones and even SIM cards can come with NFC technology built in. And many have secure ways of protecting user data. So, what's the hold up?

In order for a revolutionary and new mobile payments platform to succeed, it requires a huge amount of buy in, and not just from smartphone makers. You need to get the banks, the merchants, and ultimately, the consumers convinced that mobile payments are faster, more convenient, and safer than the way things are done now.

Everyone has to say yes

Getting credit card companies on board is the least of the problem. The likes of Visa and MasterCard already offer tap-to-pay solutions around the world and are always aiming for efficiency and transparency

to payments. This is because the easier it is to make a purchase, the higher the likelihood that consumers will buy using that system.

Getting hundreds of banks on board is another challenge, especially since some investments need to be made in terms of terminals and training. For retailers, making lines shorter and making sales easier is always a big plus. But choosing which system or platform to use is the greatest challenge.

At the consumer end, the biggest hurdle is to accept that the future is the mobile wallet and that it can be a safe, secure, and efficient way to manage money, and to pay for goods and services.

I look at my wallet and have three or four bank cards, various IDs and licenses, as well as an assortment of discount, travel, and rewards cards that are very seldom used. Yet, I carry these with me wherever I go, plus cash and my smartphone.

I, like many people, would welcome a reality where my smartphone could efficiently replace all of the above—except maybe the cash, because having some cash on hand is always good.

Talk about a revolution: Apple Pay

I believe we're on the cusp of a mobile payments revolution, one that will take two or three years to fully propagate on a global level but which is very much within our grasp. While other companies have tried, Apple's new Apple Pay payment system shows the most promise, even if it is only available in limited places in the U.S.

Apple Pay allows users to enroll various bank and rewards cards on their iPhone. As a result, users can utilize an embedded NFC chip to tap to pay for goods and services. There's no need for a PIN or a password since the iPhone's Touch ID access control system is secure enough to verify your identity (although a combination thumbprint plus PIN doesn't hurt).



Apple Pay uses existing point-of-sale terminals in many retailers that support it. And since Apple has a lot of clout in the industry, the company has received the backing of major credit and debit card companies as well as a growing list of banks.

On the merchant end, various popular retailers have started accepting Apple Pay as an in-store or even online form of payment. Again, this is limited to the U.S. for now, and a few other countries.



As for consumers, they need to have the latest iPhone 6 or iPhone 6 Plus smartphones because these are the first to feature the NFC chip. Older iPhones and iPads with Touch ID can still make online payments but that is limited as well.

Apple's wearable, the Apple Watch, will also have NFC, allowing users to pay right from the watch.

Apple is making its devices and ecosystems more valuable by slowly making them do more for their users.

The other players

While Apple and its products are popular in a number of countries, they are not as dominant as Android, so how will Apple Pay flourish on devices that are made by competing manufacturers?

That's a tough question. Many companies, including BlackBerry and Samsung, have been offering NFC payment functionality on their devices for years. But there's no unified platform for users.

Since Android is notoriously fragmented—with various versions of the OS available, a whole gamut of screen sizes and specs, plus an overwhelming variance in user experience—it is hard to see such a disorganized OS manage a standard mobile payments solution.

On the contrary, Apple Pay is easy to manage; it only works on one device. Catching bugs and fixing them system-wide is easy, and Apple's tight grip on its ecosystem and product portfolio ensures a higher degree of efficiency. Its closed framework and the fact that it will never likely make Apple Pay an open source solution (unless it stands to gain a sizeable payback) makes it nearly impossible to imagine widespread global acceptance of Apple Pay.

Global reach

Getting everyone on board one platform seems to be monumentally difficult to do in one country alone, so seeing a globally accepted mobile payments platform seems to be next to impossible. I think that the early success of Apple Pay will definitely spur competition and that consumers will eventually need to use various yet similar mobile wallet solutions.

This is good, because choice always forces competition and this competition can only improve the efficiency and experience. But the aim should be a truly universal user experience.

For now, users will have to content themselves with using various apps that simulate mobile payments or can be used as virtual airline or event tickets, IDs, hotel room keys, and other physical forms of payment, access, and identification that we will still need to carry in our pockets.

Hello, Hybrid

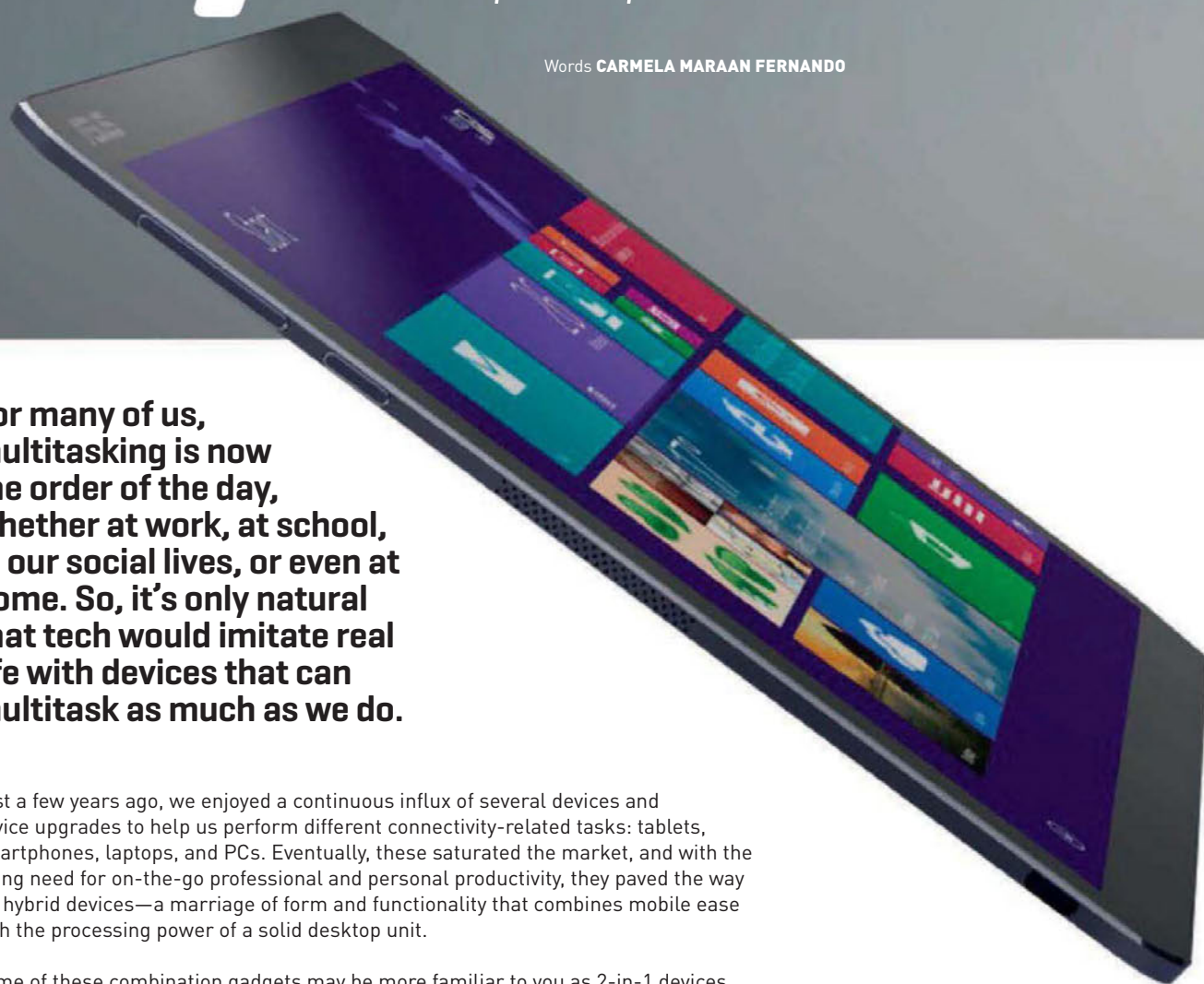
The rise of transformable devices

Words CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO

For many of us, multitasking is now the order of the day, whether at work, at school, in our social lives, or even at home. So, it's only natural that tech would imitate real life with devices that can multitask as much as we do.

Just a few years ago, we enjoyed a continuous influx of several devices and device upgrades to help us perform different connectivity-related tasks: tablets, smartphones, laptops, and PCs. Eventually, these saturated the market, and with the rising need for on-the-go professional and personal productivity, they paved the way for hybrid devices—a marriage of form and functionality that combines mobile ease with the processing power of a solid desktop unit.

Some of these combination gadgets may be more familiar to you as 2-in-1 devices, phablets (phone + tablet), or hybrid or convertible PCs. But how do they compare with their predecessors?



Mobility

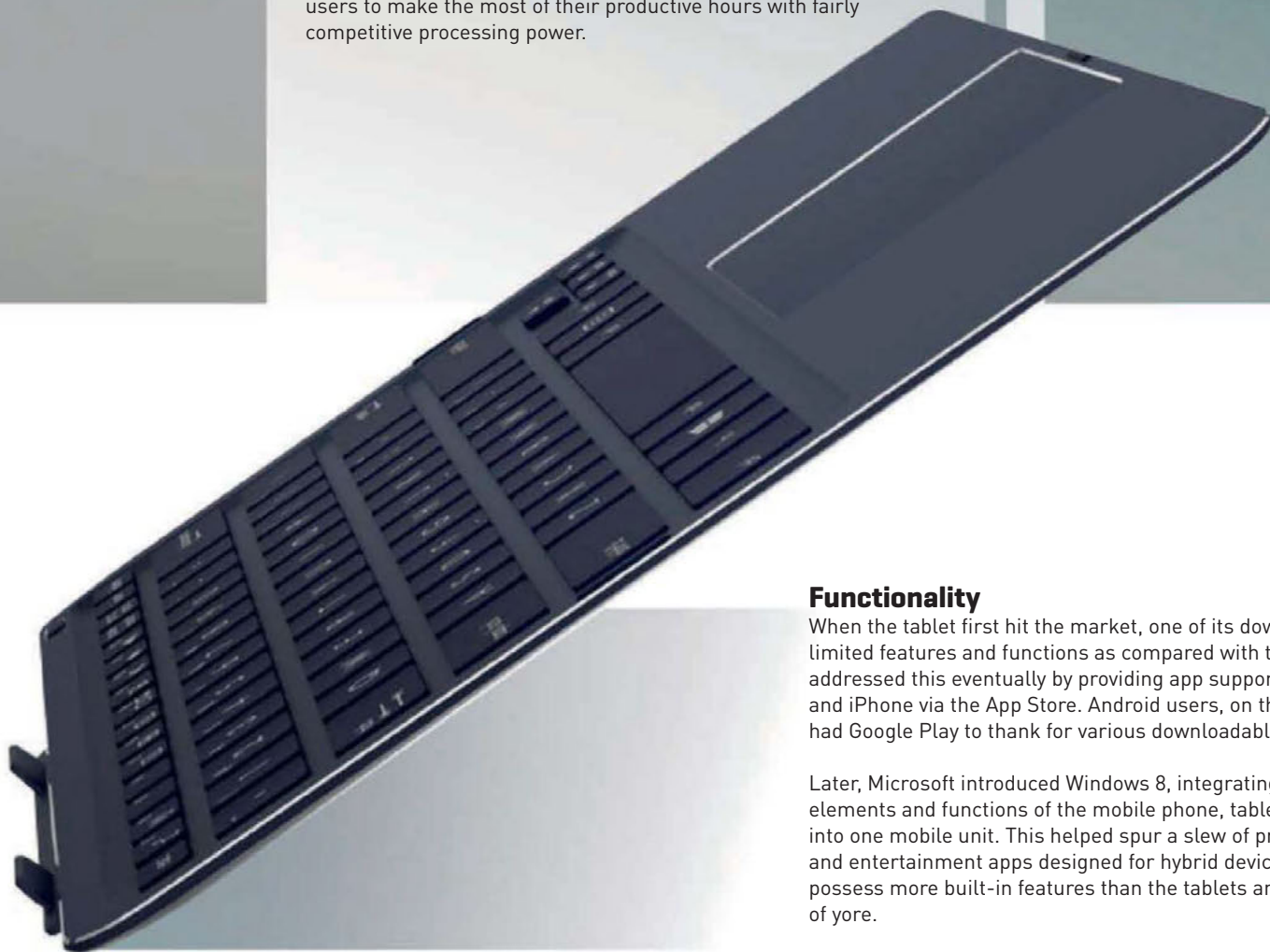
For starters, the tablet's rapid ascent to popularity in 2012 was the reason why PC sales plummeted drastically after over a decade of market leadership. Its provision for mobile computing granted a vast range of freedom to work habits, a critical factor that desktop computers struggled to compete against.

With user convenience in mind, hybrid devices are developed to provide the same mobility and ease of use as tablets do. And with the case of phablets, their smaller size and lighter weight are especially advantageous to those who constantly work while on the road, and to those who prefer to travel light.

Performance

While the tablet clearly excels in freedom and range of movement, the desktop computer still outranks it greatly in performance, thanks to stronger processors, longer-lasting batteries, ergonomically designed hardware, and a variety of peripherals.

Hybrid and combination devices can match the PC closely in terms of performance if they're outfitted with decent processors (think Haswell Core processor or Bay Trail Atom CPU), operating systems, and batteries. While they still can't rival the comfort provided by larger traditional keyboards and screens, they allow users to make the most of their productive hours with fairly competitive processing power.



Functionality

When the tablet first hit the market, one of its downsides was its limited features and functions as compared with the PC. Apple addressed this eventually by providing app support for the iPad and iPhone via the App Store. Android users, on the other hand, had Google Play to thank for various downloadable apps.

Later, Microsoft introduced Windows 8, integrating some UI elements and functions of the mobile phone, tablet, and PC into one mobile unit. This helped spur a slew of productivity and entertainment apps designed for hybrid devices, which also possess more built-in features than the tablets and smartphones of yore.

Versatility

Hands down, this is where combination and convertible devices win over tablets, standard smartphones, and traditional desktop computers, because they are developed to adapt to the user's rapidly shifting lifestyle.

Take the 2-in-1 device such as the smartphone that can be docked in and out of a corresponding tablet. When the user simply needs a phone, they can undock it from the tablet. But when docked, stored information and smartphone features can be used from the tablet in addition to the latter's standalone functions.

And then there are hybrid devices that bridge the gap between PC and slate. Some of them are 'laptop-first,' meaning they possess the form, features, and functions of a laptop, but with screens that rotate, flip, fold, and convert into a flat structure. These are ideal for those who use such devices for school and office presentations.

The 'tablet-first' hybrid devices are thinner and more lightweight, giving priority to a tablet's form and functionality. Basically, these are tablets that can be docked and undocked from a separate device, for instance, a keyboard, smartphone, or kickstand. They may be more portable than laptop-first hybrids, and definitely more powerful and functional than standard tablets, but they're still not that easy to use, particularly if you do a lot of typing.



Challenges

It's clear that the first priority of hybrids is convenience. After all, why switch between several gadgets when you can simply use one, right?

But there are still hurdles that need to be overcome—battery life, for instance. Since some combination and convertible devices are outfitted with more powerful processors and more features than traditional smartphones, tablets, and laptops, their frequent and prolonged usage can take a toll on the battery.

This is particularly true if you're using an older model with a CPU that isn't optimized for energy efficiency. You might need to lug around an additional power bank as backup for your device's battery, which defeats the purpose of light travel.

Another potential issue is size and weight, as especially evidenced in laptop-first models, which are much thicker and heavier than tablets. Although they're designed for improved

portability, you'll still end up using them propped on your lap or any flat surface, just like ye olde laptop.

Now, some would argue that hybrids are merely another fancy way of convincing the market that it needs a new type of device. It really depends on what your work and entertainment habits are.

More fast-paced lifestyles require flexible and highly useful tools that can keep up with their users. But even the average consumer can also benefit well from using a combination device, if he or she frequently turns to separate gadgets on a regular basis.

At the very least, hybrids can make a strong impact as far as form factor is concerned. And it's undeniable that the future of personal computing is geared toward mobile use. So, while the tech industry and consumer markets are still speculating on the long-term benefits of such devices, it's fairly certain that the hybrid is here to stay.



Kingsman

THE SECRET SERVICE

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

OPENS February 18



and understated gentlemanly charm, minus the Bondesque sleaze. And newcomer Taron Egerton shows promise as an upcoming action hero who manages to pull off the dashing debonair persona as well.

Since this is one of those formula-based films, expect to find plenty of standard tropes for its genre: the aging hero taking on a rookie successor; the megalomaniac and slightly goofy villain; stylized action scenes and fight choreography; colorful and even caricature-like characters; a beautiful damsel in distress (who may also be a double agent); meta references to James Bond; and more. It's quite easy to predict how the plot's highlights will unfold, but you'll still get a kick out of watching the characters flesh out the story.

Kingsman: The Secret Service also stars Michael Caine, Mark Strong, Mark Hamill, Sophie Cookson, and Sofia Boutella, with special appearances by Adele, Elton John, David Beckham, and Lady Gaga. It also features tracks by The Doors, Gary Barlow, and Iggy Azalea ft. Ellie Goulding.

BUZZ FEED

Director Matthew Vaughn dropped out of directing *X-Men: Days of Future Past* for this film.

So,

the main villain's dream job was to be a gentleman spy just like in the movies. But sadly, James Bond could be a tad too serious. Or so says his nemesis Agent Harry Hart, who ends up bagging the dream in the upcoming action-spy movie *Kingsman: The Secret Service*.

Kingsman is the name of an unassuming custom tailor store where Harry Hart (Colin Firth) poses as a proper English proprietor. Unbeknownst to shoppers, the place is merely a front for a top-secret intelligence organization, where Hart can outfit his trainees with the necessary accoutrements for tactical operations.

The fun begins when uncouth but brilliant street criminal Eggsy (Taron Egerton) is recruited and trained by Hart to join the service. The mission? Thwart the villainous tech genius Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson), who is in the process of mobilizing a biological and mind control weapon to wipe out most of the human race so he can dominate the survivors.

Based on the highly acclaimed comic book by Mark Millar & Dave Gibbons, *Kingsman: The Secret Service* is directed by Matthew Vaughn (*Kick Ass*, *X-Men First Class*). Replete with those indispensable multi-purpose spy gadgets—umbrella shield gun, anyone?—as well as tongue-in-cheek banter, this story packs several comedic punches without going overboard with slapstick elements. In fact, you could say that the most expressive lines belong to Samuel L. Jackson, who still delivers them with the badass attitude and spicy invectives that he's known for.

Meanwhile, Colin Firth counters Jackson with deadpan humor infused with his trademark English composure

Taron Egerton as Eggsy



Unbroken

OPENS February 18



Angelina Jolie directs and produces *Unbroken*, the true story of one man's survival—first against a life of rebelliousness then against a life of imprisonment.

Jack O'Connell plays Louis 'Louie' Zamperini, who rises to fame as a

dedicated Olympic distance runner. After earning a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Air Forces, he suffers a near-fatal plane crash and spends 47 days on a raft with two other crewmen before being captured and imprisoned by the Japanese army in WWII.

Unbroken is an epic drama that focuses on Zamperini's strength of spirit in the face of oppressive circumstances, particularly at the hands of a sadistic Japanese guard. Because of this, there are

arguments that call out the movie for glorifying American soldiers in context with alleged present-day war crimes.

However, in an interview with *Channel 4 News*, Jolie asserts that for her, *Unbroken* is an exercise in understanding human behavior and suffering during a brutal time in history. The message is not one of division, but rather of forgiveness and unity, as you will see in the final scene. Suffice to say, her intent is to inspire.



Angelina Jolie directs and produces *Unbroken*.

Wild

OPENS February 4

Sometimes we run to the farthest corners of the world to escape a universe of pain.

Wild captures this sentiment in the travails of Cheryl (Reese Witherspoon), who embarks on a 1,100-mile solo hike across the Pacific Crest Trail, after the respective deaths of her marriage and her mother.

With zero trekking experience and a history of addiction and escapist behavior under her belt, she leaves the world she knew in the hopes of getting herself and her life back together as it is, not as it should be.

Powerfully poignant, *Wild* illustrates how grief and despair can force us to hyperfocus on our own misery, and how experiencing the vastness of undiscovered places can help return things into perspective by reminding us that we are a part of a much greater and beautiful world—and that our troubles aren't as overwhelmingly big as they seem. It's a highly introspective tale of courage, forgiveness, and recovery that we would recommend to anyone who has descended into their personal abyss of hopelessness.

Written by Nick Hornby, *Wild* is directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, and also stars Laura Dern and Thomas Sadoski.

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**



Gone too soon

FIVE MUST-WATCH TV SHOWS THAT WERE CANCELED TOO EARLY

Words **ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA**

FlashForward
(ABC, 2009-10)

Let's

muse about what makes a TV show successful. Solid writing? Sure. Cast's onscreen chemistry? Of course. Convincing performance? You bet. Number of seasons? Not quite.

Let's face it: TV production isn't about quality or art or even entertainment value. It's a game of money, nothing less and nothing more. That's why many promising and excellent TV shows get the axe too soon, often due to low ratings and to the detriment of appreciative viewers. We say, blame the suits (or simple bad taste).

This list contains five TV shows that were canceled too soon—in three seasons or fewer—but have left a mark in the hearts of TV fanatics everywhere. They are so good that their "longevity" doesn't entail staying on-air. As soon as you finish reading this, start a TV marathon.



REMEMBER WHEN THE MUSIC VIDEO OF RADIOHEAD'S "JUST" HIT MTV? YOU CAN'T QUITE SLEEP FOR DAYS FIGURING OUT WHY EVERYONE ENDED UP LYING DOWN ON THE ROAD, TOO. A SIMILAR PHENOMENON IS THE MYSTERY PROPELLING *FLASHFORWARD*.

a vested interest, imagine what that kind of information can do to a society. What did they see? What will they do about it? What or who caused this? And what of the people who *didn't* black out?

Getting answers is the *raison d'être* of a special FBI task force that focuses on this phenomenon and the chain of events that it caused. This science-fiction series, based on the 1999 novel *Flashforward*, had a strong cast—Joseph Fiennes, John Cho, Courtney B. Vance, Gabrielle Union, and Christine Woods—high production values, and a riveting premise that invited a cult following. It lasted for only one season, which ended with a cliffhanger, mostly because of the unexpected cancelation. And viewers, sadly, didn't see into the show's future.

The series started with almost everyone in the world blacking out. While unconscious, people's lives six months into the future flashed before their eyes. With each person having



The Crazy Ones (CBS, 2013-14)

THE *CRAZY ONES* WAS THE LAST TV SERIES WHERE ROBIN WILLIAMS APPEARED IN. HIS SUICIDE CAME JUST MONTHS AFTER THE SHOW WAS CANCELED AT THE END OF ONE SEASON.

The series revolved around the inner workings of an ad agency, where Robin Williams' character heads the creative department. The cast includes Sarah Michelle Gellar, Brad Garrett, James Wolk, Hamish Linklater, and Amanda Setton. Witty banter and dramatics, expected.



I personally enjoyed watching the show because of Robin Williams. Watching it felt as if I was learning from the creative genius himself. His tragic death leaves me with many questions that should never be asked. But I wish we may never see a second season (because no one can fill Williams' shoes). And may the crazy ones also find their peace.

Happy Endings

(ABC, 2011-13)

WHY CAN'T ABC HOLD ON TO THE GOOD ONES? No one can replace *F.R.I.E.N.D.S.* or be the next *Cheers*. But while *How I Met Your Mother* chose to ignore the white elephant, *Happy Endings* faced it dead on.

Happy Endings was well-written with funny and solid regular characters (played by Casey Wilson, Eliza Coupe, Elisha Cuthbert, Adam Pally, Zachary Knighton, and Damon Wayans, Jr.). What it never was is a cheap knockoff, and it didn't try to be one. The formula worked for the most part, but the suits fumbled the ball—partly by messing with the third season's scheduling—and weren't smart enough to hustle it back.

Talking about *Happy Endings* compels me to mention CBS' *Friends With Better Lives* (13 episodes with only eight of those getting airtime; starred James Van Der Beek, Brooklyn Decker, Kevin Connolly, Rick Donald, and Zoe Lister-Jones), *Wedding Band* (10 episodes; starred Brian Austin Green, Melora Hardin, Peter Cambor, Derek Miller, Jenny Wade, and Harold Perrineau) and *Men at Work* (three seasons with 10 episodes each; starred Danny Masterson, Michael Cassidy, James Lesure, and Adam Bush). These shows were the last few that made me laugh out loud, literally. (Hear us, TV lords: we want them back!)



Pushing Daisies

(ABC, 2007-09)

EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE FANTASY IN LIFE, ALBEIT A DARK ONE. *Pushing Daisies* was another ABC series that stepped out of the box, and boasted high production values, particularly in special effects and witty dialogue.

You'd think it's great if you can bring the dead—from flowers to human beings—back to life with just one touch. But with great power comes great

responsibility. Sweet and humble pie-maker Ned (Lee Pace) has such ability but it comes with a price: for every life he gives, another life is taken. And when he touches the undead once again, death becomes her/him permanently.

Ned pretty much keeps things ethical, not abusing his power. But his life becomes even more complicated when he brings his childhood sweetheart Chuck (Anna Friel) back to life. They fall for each other again but, alas, they can no longer touch.

Arrested Development

(Fox, 2003-06)

TECHNICALLY, *ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT* WAS ONLY ON TV FOR THREE SEASONS. But the critics and viewers willed it back to life for another season in 2013 with the help of the visionaries at *Netflix*.

The sitcom follows the everyday craziness of the Bluth family, which can only be described as "dysfunctionality at its finest." Jason Bateman, Portia de Rossi, Will Arnett, Tony Hale, David Cross, Michael Cera, Alia Shawkat, Jeffrey Tambor, and Jessica Walter were all in top form and gave justice to the flawless writing. One of the executive producers was Ron



Howard, who was also the narrator.

Why was it taken off the air? Again, blame the network. But the show creator, Mitchell Hurwitz, also didn't opt to move the series to a new home, saying he'd rather not continue with the show than have its quality suffer—which would've been worse. *Arrested Development* won numerous awards (including Emmys and a Golden Globe) and a lot more nominations.

You Tube TUNES

Words **LUIS ADRIAN HIDALGO**

YouTube has become an important asset for musicians in gaining recognition for their craft. With tens of thousands of hours of content uploaded over the years, everyone is sure to find something to satisfy their varying tastes in music. Below are some YouTube channels worth checking out.

Ten Second Songs

Imagine the song "Hey Jude" by The Beatles being sung in all the different genres you could think of. Or better yet, imagine it being sung by Fall Out Boy, Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, and other big names in the music industry. That's exactly what Anthony Vincent, the artist behind Ten Second Songs, does. Vincent takes one song and sings it using styles of different artists. The result is a fun and catchy rendition.

Ten Second Song's magic really comes from Vincent's voice. You've got to hand it to the man—singing a song consecutively in twenty ways and managing to pull it off brilliantly is definitely a talent. His command of his voice, as well as the variety of artists he can imitate (which are spot-on, mind you), really brings out his musicality. For starters, his experiment with Ariana Grande's "Problem" and Katy Perry's "Dark Horse" shows how far his singing prowess can go—whether he's belting out high notes like Destiny's Child or singing in a velvety voice à la Frank Sinatra, you can expect his voice to deliver well. If you can't get enough, go and see his take on the King of Pop's classic hit "Thriller."





ScottBradleeLovesYa

Have you ever wondered how your favorite song would sound like if it were recorded in the yesteryears of, say, 1940s? Or are you interested in hearing familiar songs in a whole new different sound?

If you say yes to either of these, then ScottBradleeLovesYa is the perfect YouTube channel for you. Scott Bradlee and Postmodern Jukebox (PMJ) take you back

in time with their unique renditions of popular songs from both the past and the present. Travel through the years with their 1920s Broadway-style covers, smooth vintage 1940s jazz tunes, soul ballads, swing, waltz, doo-wop, orchestral funk—and the list goes on.

Despite the abundance of cover artists on YouTube, none come close to the quality and uniqueness of the sound that Postmodern Jukebox makes. Add to that the group's collaboration with different artists, helping

expand their horizon when it comes to creating the sound they want to achieve. PMJ breathes new life to the songs, whether it's as shocking as Nicki Minaj's "Anaconda" or as catchy as Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off." And that's what makes their music sound so great and easy to the ears.

Unconvinced? Try their 1940s vintage jazz rendition of Lady Gaga's "Just Dance" and their cover of Maroon 5's "Maps" in vintage 1970s soul style.



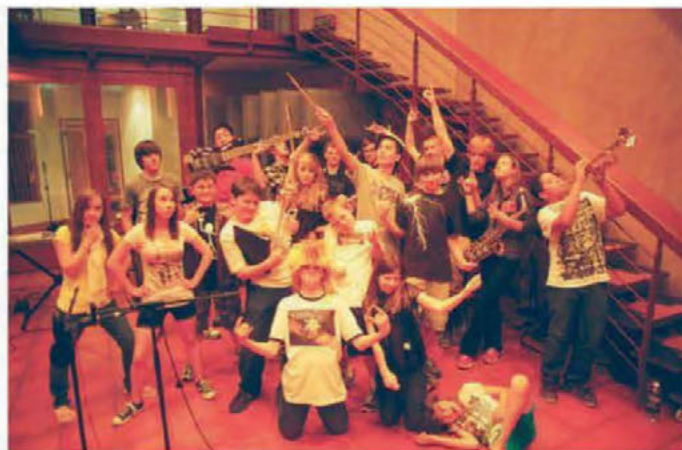
martyzsongs

Marty Schwartz studied music in college and has since decided to focus on sharing his expertise online through guitarjamz.com and of course, on YouTube. Schwartz uploads song covers as well as tutorial videos for those who want to learn how to play the guitar.

While YouTube is overflowing with guitar tutorial channels, what sets Schwartz apart from the others is his method of instruction. His experience as a music teacher greatly helps in this aspect, as he is able to communicate and devise ways to simplify even the most complicated-looking songs out there.

But his channel is not complete without his collaborations with other musicians. What he can't deliver with his voice, he more than makes up for with his guitar playing skills in song covers that are uniquely Schwartz-sounding—like his own acoustic arrangement of The Beatles' "We Can Work It Out." Also look up his cover of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," and Led Zeppelin's "Ramble On."

Got a guitar lying around? You might just find yourself learning to play it in no time.

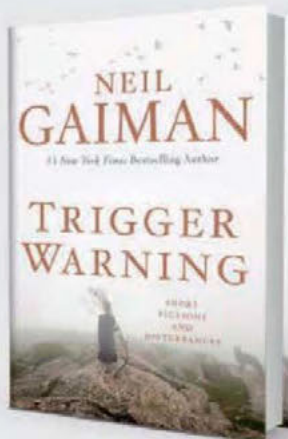


Aaron O'keefe

Although the page is named after the founder of O'Keefe Music Foundation, the true stars of this channel are the talented young musicians featured here. The foundation is a non-profit organization composed of volunteers dedicated to educating youngsters about music production, as well as helping bring their work to a global audience. Don't get it wrong; the songs covered by these young musicheads span different genres and artists, including big names in the music scene such as Pantera, Iron Maiden, Aerosmith, Guns 'n' Roses, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Paul McCartney, and Snow Patrol.

Musical awesomeness aside, the fact that the main attractions of the channel are the young, budding musicians makes it unique. We're used to seeing YouTube channels featuring grownups playing together in a band, rocking on stage or in a studio. But channels such as O'Keefe's, which feature kiddos who can play just as good as their older contemporaries (or even better!), are still very few and far between.

Sure, some rough edges still need polishing, but these kids can really deliver when it comes to fleshing out sweet guitar riffs, catchy baselines, explosive drum solos, and whatnot. Do you find it hard to believe? Listen to their cover of Tool's "46 and 2," Guns n' Roses' "You Could Be Mine," and Down's "Ghosts Along the Mississippi."



Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances

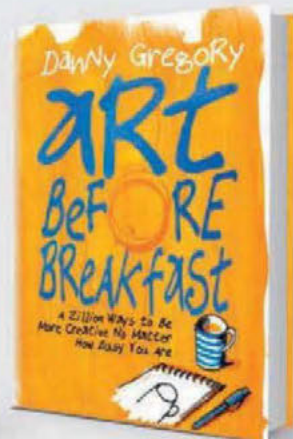
By Neil Gaiman
William Morrow (February 3, 2015)

If you can't get enough of Neil Gaiman, here's another serving of bite-size tales of fantasy intertwined with reality—dark and dreamy alike.

Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances is Gaiman's third anthology of short stories following *Smoke and Mirrors* and *Fragile Things*. As an added treat, the collection includes *Black Dog*, a previously unpublished *American Gods* story, especially written for this volume.

If his previous books explored worlds beyond the physical realm, *Trigger Warning* now delves into the shadows beneath ourselves. You'll find tales that force you to look hard underneath the mask you wear, and face what you truly fear, love, and question about your life. Perhaps this explains the Tumblr-esque title: you will be triggered to think and feel.

This would be a great companion to making new life resolutions or if you crave a well-crafted motivation to be introspective, minus the hard-sell inspirational mumbo-jumbo.



Art Before Breakfast

By Danny Gregory
Chronicle Books (February 17, 2015)

The frustrated artist in me is completely sold on this one. Creative inspiration author Danny Gregory shares easy but meaningful artistic exercises to do in *Art Before Breakfast*, which is aimed toward those who wish to get their creative juices flowing in the middle of an intensely hectic schedule.

Each exercise in the book only lasts for five to ten minutes, so they'll push you to think—and not overthink—on your feet. They're adapted to every skill level, with tips on techniques and materials to help you along.

Aside from creative block, the one thing that tends to keep raw and inexperienced but aspiring artists is fear. *Art Before Breakfast* also seeks to address this by imparting practical strategies to producing authentic art without the intimidation factor.

So grab this book, pick up a pencil and paper, and get ready to pour your heart into art.



THE DECISIVE MOMENT

BY HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON | SIMON & SCHUSTER (FEBRUARY 28, 2015)

French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908–2004) is also recognized by many as the father of photojournalism. He coined the phrase “the decisive moment,” to describe that instant when you spontaneously take a photograph and the image perfectly represents the event's essence; it's that moment when you catch form, composition, and function working together as one.

First released in 1952, Cartier-Bresson's critically acclaimed book *Images à la Sauvette* (*Images On the Run*) will be re-released for the U.S. market as *The Decisive Moment*. This new edition will be published in both French and English, while staying faithful to the original layout.

The book is a testament to the timelessness of creative mastery, which is light years ahead of the current ethos that tends to rely more heavily on technology, not skill. So, whether you're an aspiring or a professional photographer, *The Decisive Moment* is certainly a must-have in your creative inspiration arsenal.

Uncanny Avengers Omnibus

By Rick Remender and John Cassaday (February 4, 2015)

After Professor X's demise, Captain America and the Avengers join forces with the X-Men—a powerhouse team of mutants and humans. And just in time, too, because Red Skull has gotten a hold of the late Professor X's brain to use it in annihilating all mutants from the planet. Between Red Skull's S-Men and The Apocalypse Twins, the mutant-superhero squad will certainly have their hands full.

And what happens when the Avengers begin to die, after the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse unleash their powers on mankind? How will the remaining team members keep the rest of humanity safe, especially once Kang the Conqueror's Chronos Corps wreaks havoc on Planet X?



This compilation includes *Uncanny Avengers* issues #1 through #25, #8AU, and Annual #1, all in a 672-page hardback volume.



CES FOR CARS, TOO!

Words **MIKE POTENCIANO**

WHEN IS A WELL-KNOWN ELECTRONICS SHOW ALSO CONSIDERED A TOP AUTOMOTIVE EXPO? ONLY WHEN YOU GET OVERWHELMED BY THE NUMEROUS AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGIES PRESENT.

This is exactly what happened when we attended the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada last month. From self-driving cars and third-party connectivity solutions to vehicles running on alternative energies, these high-tech cars and features will make it easier for us to stay connected and help protect Mother Earth even in the automotive world.



Toyota Mirai

Toyota makes history again by bringing its hydrogen fuel cell vehicle, the Mirai, into production and offering its patents for free to all its rivals. Toyota hopes the Mirai will lead to the hydrogen revolution, trumping all other alternative energies. With a combination of fuel cell-, electric-, and hydrogen-powered engines, the compact Mirai can also power up your home during an emergency.

Volkswagen e-Golf

The Volkswagen e-Golf has evolved into a car with wireless charging capabilities (a welcome feature for charging on the go), and gesture controls for audio, video, and GPS settings. This input method is better than voice command and promises better connectivity with your mobile device.



Audi Prologue Piloted Driving

The Audi concept car has been refined since its launch in November 2014 and is now equipped with laser scanners, video cameras, and numerous sensors that make it handle driving duties by itself. Audi didn't forget to throw in an electric motor with a big V8 engine that produces 677hp, handy if ever you would like to drive it yourself; it reaches 100kph in 3.5 seconds.



Hyundai Tucson Fuel Cell and Sonata Hybrid

Hyundai has also followed the steps of Toyota by offering the fuel cell-powered and electric motor-driven Tucson to the California market. Hydrogen refuelling stations are expanding in number and soon, much of the state will be able to enjoy this new technology. The new design of the Sonata Hybrid was also launched; it looks more luxurious and angular than the previous model. The 2.4L engine with 199hp should be able to perform faster with the electric motor assisting it.



Ford Sync 3

The Ford Sync 3, which features upgraded software and hardware, can be found in most of Ford's new cars to enhance the driving experience. Voice recognition is one of the improvements of the system. Your apps for music, navigation, and phone functions (including Siri) should enjoy great connectivity along with faster speed.

Charging systems

Electrical systems in the U.S. have 110 volts only but will be upgraded to 240 volts for charging electric vehicles. These charging systems are now being sold to private homes and public places, getting great reception from environmentally conscious customers.



GEAR-UP TO SAVE FUEL



Optimize your vehicle's gas consumption with these 3 hacks:

Use Apps To Avoid Traffic

We all know traffic consumes an unnecessary amount of gas as well as induces unwanted stress, giving you every reason to use apps on your smartphone to help you drive smarter. Using these apps and your smartphone can help you avoid heavy traffic in real time, greatly increasing your fuel mileage and preserve your sanity.

Never Forget PMS

We all know about Periodic Maintenance Service but knowing is only half the battle. Changing the oil and cleaning the air filter are just some of the things that need to be done to ensure a more efficient combustion and having a properly maintained engine makes any vehicle run at its most fuel efficient rate.

Use Low Rolling Resistance Tires

What are low rolling resistance tires? In recent years, major developments in tire technology were focused on making tires that can lower a vehicle's fuel consumption. Low rolling resistance is the attribute that enables this. A tire that has low rolling resistance provides maximum efficiency and minimum energy loss in the transfer of force from the engine to the road. Thus, a tire with low rolling resistance gets more fuel mileage compared to conventional tires.

Maximizing Mileage while Minimizing Fuel Consumption

Bridgestone Ecopia's fuel saving Low Rolling Resistance technology is comprised of the many aspects that make up the tire. From the proprietary formula of the rubber used, the varying structural rigidity of the areas of the tire, all the way to the design of the tire grooves, each aspect is designed to lower rolling resistance and maximize fuel efficiency. In actual performance, the Ecopia tire has been tested by the Automotive Association of the Philippines to save up to P9.00 per liter of fuel.



**GET MORE TRAVEL
FOR LESS FUEL**

BRIDGESTONE



MIKE POTENCIANO

A NOVICE AT CES

WHEN A FRIEND INVITED ME TO ATTEND THE CES, I ASKED "WHAT IS THAT?"

Being a novice at the International Consumer Electronics Show, I must have seemed to be hiding under a rock for the past 30 years. In fact, I never thought that CES will excite me since it is primarily an electronics show.

How wrong I was when I checked out CES and found it was not just for electronic geeks but also for gadget-loving guys and even old school auto enthusiasts.

1 AUTONOMOUS DRIVING CARS

The trend for car manufacturers is to make you drive less and let the cars bring you around. You can just ride inside an autonomous driving car, do your work, or prepare for a party while the vehicle drives itself. I'm sure there will be a big market for this. Even the odd "missing car" experience in the parking lot will not be a problem in the future as the car can just go to where you are. But who will the traffic police issue a ticket to when the car gets into an accident?

2 CONNECTIVITY TO THE MAX

With everyone now switching to smartphones, it's just right to have these mobile devices control the computer systems in the car, too. Companies are developing operating systems that will interact with cars and soon access valuable information in your vehicle. The problem is, how much information do you want to keep private

and not share to the world, although I am sure the police will have an easier job catching speeding cars if this pushes through.

3 FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR GREEN ENERGY

Fuel cell cars powered by hydrogen, dedicated electric drivetrains, and fuel efficiency systems have made the people advocating green energy smile bigger these days. Toyota's decision to share their fuel cell technology patents for free will surely help push this system forward.

4 HIGH-END AUDIO

High-end audio companies rely on tried-and-tested systems to make their sound quality so much better. I was fortunate to have interviewed owners of Burmester and Thorens, and I was amazed! I can't wait to hear their systems. Burmester even has their audio system in the rarest car ever, the Bugatti Veyron.

5 DRONES, DRONES, DRONES

The advent of aerospace filming has never been so exploited as what we are seeing today. Drones have taken over the skies. Some are no longer toys but are being used for professional filming. With video cameras and stabilizer gimbals now becoming smaller and smaller, the drones are becoming bigger and bigger. Let us just be responsible and respect each other's privacy.

There were a lot more technologies that I didn't get to see. I now know I will need a lot more time to cover a show like CES. Now, let me plan my trip for the next CES and SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association), and hopefully we get the best technologies here soon.



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Max Power

6.9 kw @ 7,500 rpm

Fuel efficient

63km/liter

Average minimum consumption based on ECE 40 Test Method.
Actual mileage may vary depends on road condition, riding
habit, & unit maintenance among others.

Cost efficient

Php 9,560 annual savings

Difference on annual fuel cost
between a carburetor (Php33,459) and
a fuel-injected model (Php 23,899)
based on a 75 km daily travel at Php 55
per liter. Carburetor's average fuel
consumption is 45km/L.



SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION

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Promo runs from Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A No.:12-360 Series of 2014
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Slim & Sporty

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Panalo Ka**

sa
SUZUKI

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Fuel efficient

63km/liter

Average minimum consumption based on ECE 40 Test Method. Actual mileage may vary depends on road condition, riding habit, & unit maintenance among others.

Cost efficient

Php 9,560 annual savings

Difference on annual fuel cost between a carburetor (Php33,459) and a fuel-injected model (Php 23,899) based on a 75 km daily travel at Php 55 per liter. Carburetor's average fuel consumption is 45km/L.

Max Power

6.9 kw @ 7,500 rpm



SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION

Doble Panalo Ka

sa SUZUKI

Promo runs from Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A No.: 12-360 Series of 2014
ASC No.: S047P121014S



SUZUKI HELMET



SUZUKI JACKET

Suzuki and GUD Moto Open their Second 3S Shop in Cebu City!



Following the opening of Suzuki Philippines 3S Shops in Luzon (Pagsanjan) and Mindanao (Butuan), the Japanese giant is still rolling with the launching of its latest shop in Visayas which resides at the heart of Cebu City.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



The opening was headed by GUD Moto President George Du and his family with Suzuki Philippines' President Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki.

The new Suzuki 3S Shop offers a complete service to meet customer's satisfaction which is the true meaning of Suzuki's Way of Life!



The NEW 3S Shop concept was established to make the Suzuki 3S (sales, service, and spare parts) experience more accessible to people. The showroom is designed to have a wide open space wherein visitors can watch the working scene of the service shop through glass partitions.



The two companies prepared fun and exciting activities for their 1st customers, which include motorcade, stunt show, contests such as Search for Fi Biker Babe and Fi Dance Revolution as well as games.

Come and visit us at F. Llamas St. Punta Princesa, Labangon, Cebu City !



Gud Moto Trading Personnel

Team Suzuki and GUD Moto Trading set up various promos and activities that will surely be a great treat to the shop's customers. Discounts on cash purchases with low monthly amortization and interest rates await the store's potential buyers.



Visit us and get a free Suzuki Fi Lanyard by presenting this magazine issue*



Now on its 4th Year, Suzuki Partners with Retail Giant SM Supermalls!



SUPERMALLS



Watch Out for a BIGGER Suzuki Mall Invasion this 2015!

Through the Suzuki Mall Invasion, Suzuki will bring its products nearer the Filipinos. The mall activity includes a week-long display wherein customers can have a feel of Suzuki's frontrunners - the Fi-powered Shooter 115 Fi and the Raider J 115 Fi as well as its line-up of equally stunning motorcycle models in carburetor engine; the Skydrive 125 with its brilliant colors and decals, the Smash 115; designed with the infamous Suzuki GSXR racing motorcycle in mind, the Raider R 150; known as the King of Underbone and the GD110; a practical, fuel-efficient and durable motorcycle highly ideal for business use. Suzuki Service Representatives will also be present to answer inquiries. With partner dealers assigned each day during the display, customers who plan to buy a motorcycle will also be assisted and given the best deals! To fully deliver the Fi Revolution experience, a Test Ride activity of the new Fi models is also held simultaneously.

This 2015 come and join the fun!



The Suzuki Mall Invasion bigger than ever!

LUZON	Mall Display & Test Ride	LUZON	Mall Display & Test Ride
SM City Bicutan	FEBRUARY 9 - 15	SM City Olongapo	JULY 15 - 21
SM City Clark	FEBRUARY 19 - 25	SM City Sta. Rosa	JULY 30 - AUGUST 5
SM City Lipa	FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 6	SM Southmall	AUGUST 1 - 7
SM City Marikina	MARCH 14 - 20	SM City Rosales	AUGUST 15 - 21
SM City San Fernando	MARCH 24 - 30	SM City San Pablo	AUGUST 18 - 24
SM City Rosario	APRIL 9 - 15	SM City Masinag	AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4
SM City Batangas	APRIL 18 - 24	SM City Pampanga	SEPTEMBER 12 - 18
SM City San Lazaro	APRIL 28 - MAY 4	SM City Dasmarinas	SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1
SM City Baguio	MAY 1 - 7	SM City Sta. Mesa	OCTOBER 10 - 16
SM City Baliwag	MAY 12 - 18	SM City Cauayan	OCTOBER 13 - 19
SM Center Muntinlupa	MAY 24 - 30	SM City Sucat	NOVEMBER 9 - 15
SM City Naga	MAY 26 - JUNE 1	SM City Marilao	NOVEMBER 14 - 20
SM City Taytay	JUNE 9 - 15	SM City Calamba	NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2
SM City Bacoor	JUNE 25 - JULY 1	SM City Fairview	DECEMBER 9 - 15
SM City Tarlac	JUNE 12 - 18	SM City Manila	DECEMBER 11 - 17
SM City Novaliches	JULY 10 - 16		
VISAYAS	Mall Display & Test Ride	MINDANAO	Mall Display & Test Ride
SM City Iloilo	MARCH 4 - 10	SM Lanang Premier	MARCH 10 - 16
SM City Consolacion	AUGUST 5 - 11	SM City Davao	AUGUST 14 - 20
SM City Cebu	SEPTEMBER 23 - 29	SM City Cagayan de Oro	AUGUST 22 - 28
SM City Bacolod	OCTOBER 15 - 21	SM City Gen. Santos	SEPTEMBER 15 - 21

Plus! Meet the Suzuki Fi Ladies!





COVER GIRL

sarah lahbati

COMING INTO HER OWN

INTERVIEW BY
PATRICIA MAE CALICA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MARLON PECJO

From the outside looking in,

SARAH LAHBATI IS EVERYTHING YOU WOULD EXPECT
A STAR TO BE. BEAUTIFUL, POLISHED, AND POISED,
SHE MOVES GRACEFULLY AND TALKS VERY SOFTLY.



SARAH LAHBATI



Gold top by **RAJO LAURET** • black skirt
by **CHARINA SAKTE**



Shirt by **SPEED** •
pants **MODEL'S OWN**

TALKING TO SARAH, WE DISCOVERED MORE ABOUT THIS FEISTY 21-YEAR-OLD. SHE'S WISE BEYOND HER AGE AND MATURE IN HER PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE. IT'S SPEED'S FIRST TIME TO WORK WITH SARAH. BUT AFTER OUR 30-MINUTE-OR-SO INTERVIEW, IT FELT LIKE WE'VE KNOWN HER FOR A LONG TIME.

WIRED

"I always drop my phone," Sarah said, laughing. "This is so embarrassing. I [always] drop my phone on my face when I'm lying down." So do we, Sarah. So do we.

If asking Sarah her tech booboo is embarrassing for her, asking how much

time she spends online every day made her feel something else. "You're making me feel guilty by asking that question. I can say that I spend less time now that I have a family. But I used to spend a lot of time when I was still single." (laughs)

NICE SAVE THERE. BUT SURELY YOU CAN SURVIVE A DAY WITHOUT THE INTERNET OR SOCIAL MEDIA?

Yeah. When I'm at the beach. I take photos, post them, and then I would hide my phone and enjoy. *Ganun ako* when I'm at the beach or in the mountains.

WHAT ARE THE WEBSITES YOU VISIT WHEN ONLINE?

YouTube. BuzzFeed. I visit websites wherein I can find interesting recipes. [And] I recently found out this website called Get Real Philippines! There are interesting articles about the harsh truth that is happening to us Filipinos.

SARAH LAHBATI



Gold jacket by VERO MODA



You don't have to constantly tweet or write a status [about] where you are, what you are doing. You really have to try to live life. You don't realize it but [using social media is] a trap; it's not making you live life freely. "

WHAT APPS DO YOU OFTEN USE?

[Turns on her phone] These are the apps that I've downloaded recently because I don't know how to transfer all my apps [from my old iPhone]. I have the GoPro app, Booky—the food app where you just type a restaurant and then the menu shows—applications to keep in touch with my dad, Gmail, Shazam, and Spotify. I use Pages—'yung [app for] Facebook pages—Waze, and Bandsintown. [Bandsintown] is really cool. You see an update whenever there's band or a singer coming in town.

IT SEEMS YOU REALLY LIKE MUSIC.

Yes. (smiles)

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE BAND OR ARTIST?

Favorite band right now, or for a long time, is Arctic Monkeys. I also like Magic!. When you check my playlist, you'd be surprised. There's rock, R&B, hip-hop, and jazz. My playlist is very random. 'Yung recently played *ko* [are] Arctic Monkeys, Bob Marley, Chet Faker, and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

IF THERE'S ONE APP THAT YOU WANT TO BE MADE, WHAT WOULD IT DO?

That's an interesting question because I've been thinking about it a lot. *Siguro* we really need an app that will help us in case [there's] an emergency. In the States they have 911. With just one call, you have the police. Here we don't have that number to dial, that application to go to, whenever you need something. I hope that *magkaroon tayo ng ganun* soon. It will help us a lot.

HOW DO YOU USE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR WORK?

It's marketing for me because I get to promote my upcoming events, my upcoming shows. And it is marketing for everyone else, for all the celebrities and the people in this industry.

YOU'VE SPENT TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS STAYING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN SWITZERLAND. HOW HAS TECHNOLOGY HELPED YOU STAY IN TOUCH?

I use social media and applications like WhatsApp and Viber to keep in touch with them. Like, my best friend [was recently] in town but then she just left so I have those apps to keep in touch.

I make sure I'm updated with their lives by talking to them. Not necessarily every day because they also have a life and they're also busy. I just make sure I'm aware of what's happening in their lives.

ANY NO-NOS WHEN IT COMES TO USING SOCIAL MEDIA?

You don't have to constantly tweet or write a status [about] where you are, what you are doing. You really have to try to live life. You don't realize it but [using social media is] a trap; it's not making you live life freely. It's like you're constantly on your phone and then you forget that you are having lunch with your family or friends.

AS A CELEBRITY, YOU CAN'T AVOID BEING CRITICIZED. HOW DO YOU HANDLE NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON CYBERSPACE?

I scroll down. Once I see a negative word that starts a negative sentence, I scroll down right away.

WHAT'S ON THE TOP OF YOUR GADGET WISHLIST?

The first one, it's a [pair of] goggles with a built-in camera. So when you ski, you just wear them, turn on the camera, and you're recording *na*. Second one, I want big speakers for the house. Not for house parties but for dinners or if there's an occasion.

ROLL CAMERA...

After choosing to stay private for a few years, Sarah is back in the country and in show business. "I still want to act, sing, and entertain [the fans who were there for me]," she said.

ASIDE FROM *SUNDAY ALL STARS*, WHAT OTHER PROJECTS DO YOU HAVE THAT WE SHOULD WATCH FOR?

Liwanag sa Dilim. It's coming out [this month]. I'm excited [about this film] because the director (Lawrence Fajardo) is very, very good. And [it's] a good story.

WHEN YOU CAME BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES, IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU GAVE BIRTH JUST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE. HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE YOUR FIT BODY?

Thank you! I tried to eat healthy but I didn't do extreme diets because I was breastfeeding. I just think that I'm young, which is why I didn't have a hard time. But if I'm older, *siguro* I might have a hard time.

WE SEE A TREND OF SEXY AND FIT CELEBRITY MOTHERS COMING OUT WITH DARING PHOTO SHOTS SUCH AS JENNYLYN MERCADO, LJ REYES, AND KATRINA HALILI. WILL YOU ALSO BE TAKING THAT PATH?

It's still weird when people give me all those names and get those compliments. But I'm grateful.

I always say this: as long as the project is interesting and it will move the audience, as long as I have a great time [and have] a creative team who is not scared to go out of the box, [if it's] something that is worth it, then I'll definitely do it. I like challenge and I want to grow every day and learn something new every day.

DO YOU HAVE ANY DREAM PROJECT?

I dream of working with creative writers and directors that aren't scared to go out of the box. I dream of doing an indie movie. In indie movies, when they do work, they really just do what they think will help the movie. They think freely, so it's a beautiful thing to have that.

WHERE WOULD YOU BE IF YOU DIDN'T GET INTO ACTING?

I'd be in school, that's for sure. And I'd be thinking of opening or doing my business. I'm young at heart but play time has its own time. I always think ahead and make sure that if I'm done with this job, I have something else to do for myself and my family.



EVERYDAY TECH

GADGETS: iPhone 6, iPhone charger, iPhone car charger, earphones, MacBook Pro, GoPro Hero 4, and other cameras

GADGET SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT:

iPhone 6 and charger

MOST USED APP:

Instagram

(@SarahLahbati)

SOCIAL

MEDIA PAGES:

Twitter

(@SarahLahbati),

Facebook Page

(fb.com/ZionGutz)

LATEST GADGET

PURCHASED:

60mm lens for

Nikon (gift for

Richard Gutierrez)





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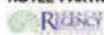
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COVER GIRL



Gold jacket by VERO MODA

“Work hard, travel harder.”

AND CUT!

“Work hard, travel harder!” is Sarah’s motto in life, so after putting in a hard day’s work, she rewards herself with a much deserved trip out of town—most of the time diving in the beautiful Philippine seas.

HOW AND WHERE DO YOU USUALLY SPEND YOUR WEEKENDS?

At work. *(laughs)* No, *kasi* every Sunday I’m at work. On my free time, it’s either I watch a movie with Chard (Richard Gutierrez) or I bring Zion to playschool or we go to the beach.

ON YOUR ALONE TIME, WHAT DO YOU DO?

I always search for music, new and old. I [also] enjoy boxing. That’s something I do when I have free time.

WHAT’S ON TOP OF YOUR 2015 BUCKET LIST?

Go on different adventures. Travel more. Try out different things such as riding a motorcycle for the happiness of Chard.

I recently tried UTV and I liked it a lot. And I want to do it more often. It’s kind of wild and if you’re scared of getting dirty then that’s not for you.

WE NOTICE YOU USE THE HASHTAG #SLTRAVELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. WHAT ARE THE PLACES YOU’VE ALREADY VISITED?

In the Philippines, Palawan [and] Cebu. Cebu is very big and there are so many different places for divers and so many species to see. Like in Malapascua, [there’s the] thresher shark.

In Oslob, there’s the whale shark. [But] I’m not 100 percent [okay] with what’s happening there because [the sharks] are being fed every day and [they’ve become] very dependent. But it’s cool that we have [whale sharks] here in the Philippines.

So, Malapascua, Oslob, Palawan—Coron, Palawan—and Moalboal this year for the sardines and free diving. For diving, *‘yun pa lang ang napuntahan ko*.

[I’ve also been to] Egypt, Italy, Switzerland, Morocco, [and] Germany. In Asia, [I’ve been to] Singapore [and] Malaysia. Oh, and Los Angeles, California, and so on and so on.

WHEN DID YOU START DIVING AND SKIING?

I’ve been skiing my whole life in Switzerland. But diving, I was certified when I was nine with my dad in Egypt. I would dive once in a while but it wasn’t something I enjoyed *kasi nasa Switzerland ako*. *Wala akong nakikita dun* and I don’t like diving in the lake. *Na-enjoy ko lang* when we went out of the country. Recently, I discovered so many beautiful places here in the Philippines and I’m so happy that I’m traveling here. Especially Cebu, there are so many beautiful dive sites.

WHAT’S YOUR DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION?

Tonga Vava’u. It’s in Australia. You’ll see humpback whales there and you get to swim with them and take pictures. And I really miss skiing. I want to go back to Switzerland and ski. I didn’t get to ski last winter because I was pregnant, so I want to ski again and bring Zion and my family there.

YOU’VE BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES. WHAT HAS TRAVELING TAUGHT YOU?

I’ve been traveling since I was young and I’m very grateful to my parents *na* they work hard to make sure that I get to experience that. You know, *sobrang open ng mind ko* because I’ve traveled so much at a very young age.

SARAH LAHBATI



Black dress: STYLIST'S OWN

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- **The Invisible Toothbrush** – Vitamin C has been referred to as the "Invisible Toothbrush". According to recent studies, people who only brushed their teeth once per day and consumed higher amounts of Vitamin C had less plaque and bacteria on their teeth than the others that brushed their teeth two or more times per day.



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Geek-spotting



**ELAINE
ROCHELLE
TALUSAN**
Doctor
SDS Medical
Center,
Marikina City

How long have you been a doctor? I've been a [resident physician] for more than a year.
What gadgets/technologies/programs have you adopted recently in your work? I have several medical apps that I use. Most commonly used is Pregnancy Wheel. My phone contains no games, really. All are just medical applications: PALS Advisor, *theheart.org* by WebMD, CliniCalc Medical Calculator, and Medscape. Social networks? I have Facebook *pero mas ginagamit ko Viber*—both for personal and work.

How have these programs changed how you do your job? It made computations faster. I don't have to bring my medical books anymore *rin*. I can access what I need on my phone.

How else can technology improve your job?
What gadgets/technologies are needed?

Technology has so many places in medicine. *Halimbawa*, sa imaging. Imaging becomes more diagnostic and at the same time therapeutic. *Pangalawa*, 'yung mga bullet drugs—drugs that are very target-specific—in treating cancer, useful *siya*. Now, there are drugs that target specific cancer cells, sparing the normal ones.

How do you use technology in your personal life? For bonding. It brings me closer to my family. [It is] especially [useful] for me [because] I do 24-hour duties, 5-6 days straight. I'm almost always away from my family and special someone. So, during duty, when I have no patient, I do video calls.

What do you look for in a mobile device? *Gusto ko user-friendly. Ayoko ng naliligaw ako*, 'yung mga maraming options, so I prefer iPhones. *Kasi simple, very direct.*

Top 3 gadgets on your wishlist?

1. Kindle e-book reader
2. Samsung tablet
3. Audi's self-driving car

What gadget or technology should've been invented by now?

I look forward to a more versatile and less invasive surgical equipment that could provide patients with faster healing time, faster operation time. And because it's less invasive, it could also be done [on] high-risk patients, who have less chances of successful surgery.

What is the top reason stopping people from adopting new tech?

For me, number one is because it disconnects them from people around them. For children, it decreases their physical activity. *Dine-decrease din niya 'yung socialization ng bata*. It breaks the bonding between parents and children.



**RICKY
MIRANDA**
Taxi Driver
Stealth Taxi
Transit

How long have you been a taxi driver? Three years.

What are the gadgets have you adopted recently in your work? *Itong Huawei smartphone galing sa GrabTaxi*. Four months ago *lang ako nag-start gumamit nito*. *Wala akong kahit anong cellphone dati*.

What made you adopt this gadget? *Pumunta 'yung GrabTaxi sa company namin at in-offer kung gusto namin gumamit ng GrabTaxi*. Kami naman na mga driver, basta makakatulong sa kabuhayan, ayos lang. So, nag-decide 'yung operator namin na kumuha ng GrabTaxi.

What apps do you usually use? *Gumagamit ako ng GrabTaxi, syempre. Waze, kapag traffic sa dadaanan ko. Minsan, gumagamit din ako ng MMDA app.*

Can you explain how GrabTaxi works on the driver's end? (Ricky demonstrates on his phone.) *Kagaya nito, may pasaherong nag-request ng GrabTaxi. Makikita ng mga drivers 'yan. Kung malapit ka sa area at walang sakay o kaya mag-bababa sa malapit, pwede ka mag-yes dun sa request. Kapag hindi mo kaya, hayaan mo lang mag-expire ['yung request]. Pero parang bidding 'to. Hindi sa 'yo 'yan kaagad kasi baka may ibang mga drivers na nag-yes din. May GPS kasi itong cellphone eh, so kung sino 'yung pinakamalapit [na driver], sa kanya mapupunta 'yung pasahero.*

How have these gadgets and apps changed how you do your job? *Malaking bagay ito sa akin. Mas madali 'yung communication namin sa pasahero at napadali din 'yung transportasyon niyong mga pasahero. Sa gabi, hindi nag-aalangang sumakay 'yung pasahero kapag alam nilang GrabTaxi ka. Kapag hindi mo kabisado yung lugar, i-search mo lang [sa smartphone], malalaman mo na. Lumaki rin ng kaunti 'yung kita. Mas fair pa para sa aming mga driver.*

What do you mean by fair? *Sa dati kong kumpanya kasi, naka-radyo lang 'yung mga driver. Tapos 'yung operator ang tatanggap ng tawag ng pasahero na magpapasundo. Ira-radyo niya 'yun sa mga driver. Kung sino maunang kumuha, kahit malayo naman, sa kanya ibibigay. Minsan palakasan din lang sa nagra-radyo. At least dito yung GPS mismo magasabi na ikaw [ang] mas malapit, ikaw na ang kumuha.*



**ELSA B.
LAURIO**
Lady Guard
Northern
Security
Agency; UP
Diliman ISSI

How long have you been a security guard? Fourteen years *na ako dito sa ISSI building, UP Diliman*.

What gadgets have you adopted recently in your work? *Versa Radio [two-way radio] at tsaka CCTV camera*

How did you use to do your tasks before you adopted these? *Dati iikutin ng guard ang buong building. linspeksyunin yung mga daanan, kwarto. Babantayan mga gamit. Bawat floor, pati parking area, binabantayan.*

What made you adopt them? *Sa laki ng building, di kakayanin ng isang guard lang. Kaya yung CCTV, malaking tulong lalo na kapag maraming tao tulad ng kapag maraming nagse-seminar.*

How did you learn to use them? *Actually, tinuruan kami ng IT specialist ng ISSI. Tinuruan niya 'yung mga guard kung paano i-rewind at kung paano i-save [ang CCTV footage] kapag in case na wala siya.*

How have these gadgets changed how you do your job? *Malaking tulong 'yung CCTV sa aming mga security guard kasi kapag may nakawan at nakapasok sa loob nang di namamalayan, pwede i-rewind yung CCTV [footage] para malaman kung sino. Mas napapadali ang pag-iimbestiga. Mas napapadali ang trabaho.*

What do you look for in a mobile device? *Sa cellphone, ang importante lang sa akin makapag-text lang. At tsaka yung camera, malaking bagay din 'yun. Pati 'yung pang-record, in case of emergency.*

Top 3 gadgets on your wishlist?

1. Air con
2. TV (Yung nakita ko sa Western, P104,000. Ilang inches ba 'yun? Ang lapad!)
3. Sharp washing machine na may dryer

What gadget or technology should've been invented by now?

Yung de-remote na pagkain. 'Yung pipindutin mo na lang, di ka na magluluto.

What is the top reason stopping people from adopting new tech? *Kahirapan. Pwede ring dahil praktikal ka. 'Yung iba, merong pambili pero iniisip nila baka ma-snatch lang. Sayang naman.*

How would you want technology to improve our everyday lives? *Meron pa bang paraan para makatipid? 'Yung electric jeep. Maganda kung 'yung teknolohiya, magagawang makatipid ang tao sa transportasyon.*

DID YOU KNOW?

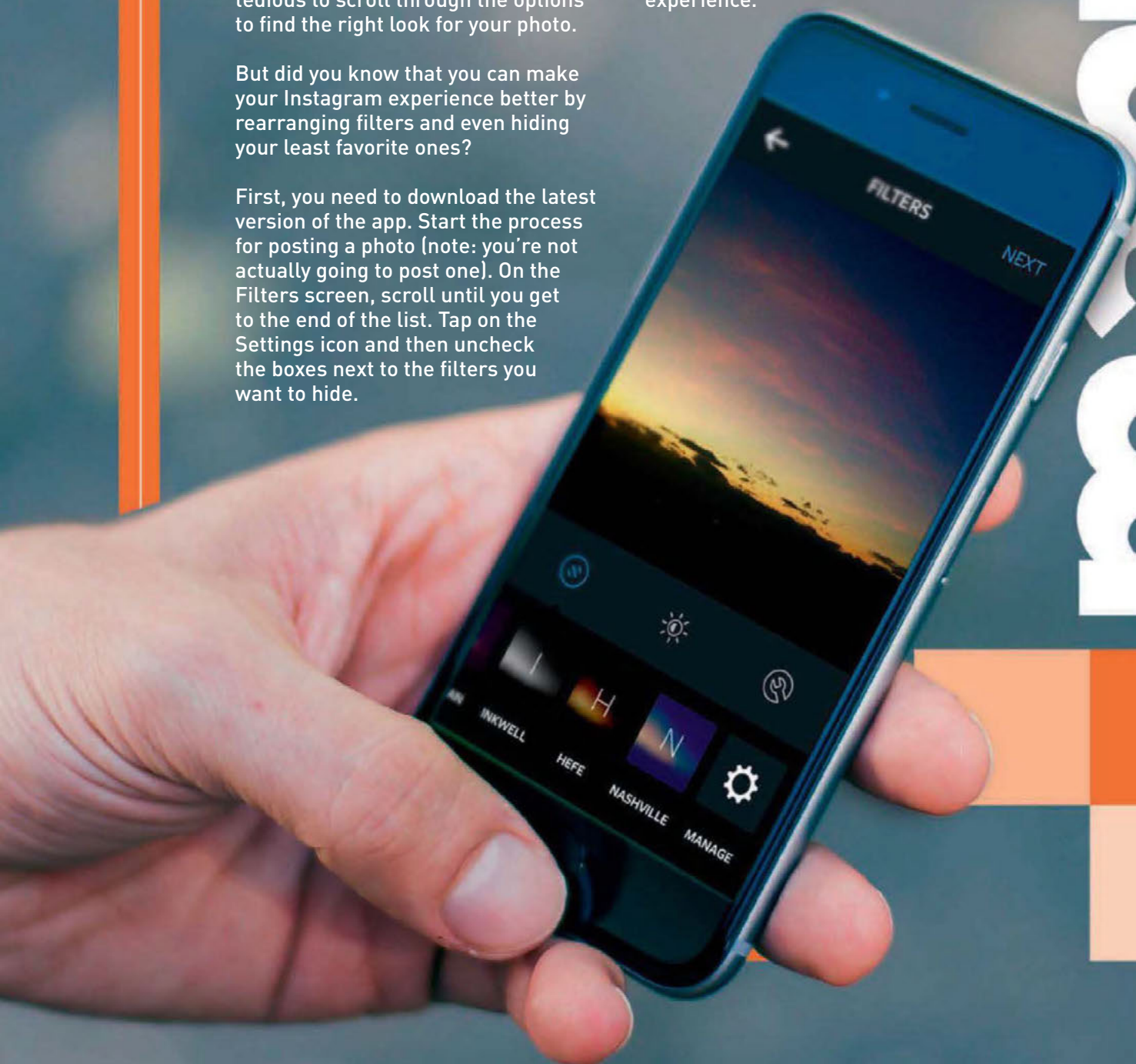
WHILE SOME IGERS TAKE PRIDE IN POSTING #NOFILTER PHOTOS ON THEIR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS, SOME RELY ON FILTERS TO PRETTIFY AN OTHERWISE ORDINARY OR BLAND SHOT.

Recently, the photo/video-sharing service updated its iOS and Android apps, which included the addition of five new filters. Now with 24 filters to choose from, it's become even more tedious to scroll through the options to find the right look for your photo.

But did you know that you can make your Instagram experience better by rearranging filters and even hiding your least favorite ones?

First, you need to download the latest version of the app. Start the process for posting a photo (note: you're not actually going to post one). On the Filters screen, scroll until you get to the end of the list. Tap on the Settings icon and then uncheck the boxes next to the filters you want to hide.

To rearrange the filters, use the three-lined handle next to each filter's name. Save your changes and—voilà!—you have a more streamlined Instagram experience.



January

The year 2038 has bugs

A review of your high school nightmare: binary math



VAL J. GONZALES

I WAS WORKING AS A SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR IN A COMMERCIAL ISP WHEN RUMORS OF THE Y2K BUG STARTED TO SPREAD. ALTHOUGH WE WERE QUITE SURE THAT NOTHING DISASTROUS WOULD HAPPEN ON NEW YEAR'S EVE OF 1999, WE STILL CAMPED OVERNIGHT IN THE OFFICE, PARTLY ANXIOUS AND PARTLY CURIOUS TO SEE HOW THE EVENT WOULD UNFOLD.



The Y2K bug, a.k.a. the Millennium Bug, was an anticipated software malfunction that was caused by a programming flaw in an earlier software. It was a common practice then for programmers to shorten the full year i.e. "1999" into "99" to use less database storage. It was theorized that when the software incremented from "99" to "00", dates could be misinterpreted as "1900" instead of "2000", triggering a glitch in time-dependent software.

Fortunately, nothing serious happened except for isolated cases; most of our critical systems here were still paper-based and were not directly affected. Also, most administrators had migrated ahead to UNIX systems, which were immune to the Y2K malady.

Unfortunately, a limit in the capacity of UNIX-like systems to calculate time can trigger another digital doomsday that may happen sometime in the year 2038.

Decoding the 2038 bug, Gangnam style
UNIX-like systems (i.e. Linux and Mac OS X) define time according to the POSIX epoch, the beginning of UNIX time. Each instance in the timeline is expressed as the number of seconds that elapsed since 1 January 1970 00:00:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). To illustrate, this year's Valentine's Day—Saturday, 14 February 2015, 12AM Philippine Standard Time—would have the value of 1,423,872,000,000 seconds.

Using absolute units (seconds) is very convenient for C programmers to find the difference between two UNIX time values. A standard C library for handling time takes care of this. The time value (data type `time_t`) is originally stored as a 32-bit integer. This means that the range

of possible values it can hold is 2^{32} or 4,294,967,296 (remember your binary lessons, kids). However, since UNIX time can accept both positive and negative numbers, you divide the range by two and get 2,147,483,647 in both directions plus a zero in the middle. Read more about bits and bytes here.¹

Converting this value (in seconds) will give you approximately 68.0511 years. Add this to the UNIX epoch and you arrive at the maximum time of 3:14:07 AM on 19 January 2038. One second after this will trigger an overflow error in a 32-bit application.

The realistic effects were uncannily demonstrated by the YouTube video of Psy's Gangnam style. The official YouTube blog wrote, "We never thought a video would be watched in numbers greater than a 32-bit integer (=2,147,483,647 views), but that was before we met Psy. "Gangnam Style" has been viewed so many times we had to upgrade to a 64-bit integer (9,223,372,036,854,775,808)!"

Thanks to the internet and Psy, the 2038 bug has recently gained much media attention.

What could happen?

We still have 23 years to fix this, but most operating systems have begun the shift to 64-bit systems. Software developers everywhere are already feeling the crunch to update their applications to new platform specifications to reduce possible software malfunctions.

This is where it gets tricky: most industrial and personal electronic devices were

designed during the 32-bit era with 32-bit firmware directly embedded to the hardware. An upgrade in this scenario—with devices designed to last a long time, some beyond 2038—is near impossible and expensive.

What could happen if actions are not taken? Below are some possible scenarios:

- Inaccurate or zero information from weather instruments because the forecast track of typhoons would fail to receive accurate GPS (exact location in time and space) readings.
- Zero (yay) or horrendous (nay) mobile phone bills because UNIX time would mistakenly log calls.
- Loans beyond 2038 would not be calculated by microfinancing programs using the documented 32-bit **MySQL UNIX_TIMESTAMP()** function.
- Another massive #chickensad event on twitterverse because an inventory software of a particular local fastfood chain would fail to predict the correct quantity of chicken demand.
- Aircraft and cargo ships that have legacy-mounted navigational tools would be grounded, putting a strain on the global shipping industry, affecting global trade in the process.

I first encountered this bug in 2002 while doing design work on a smart scheduling module. Instead of creating a workaround, I decided to rule out the threat because I thought nobody would be using the same software in the year 2038. A decade later, that software was eventually replaced by a graphical interface running on a browser using a popup calendar script that could accept date inputs beyond 2038.

There is no universal solution to the Y2038 problem. In the Y2K problem alone, the Federal government of the United States spent almost \$100 billion in software upgrades. In the Philippines, a Republic Act was passed requiring business entities to disclose year 2000 readiness, and an executive order established the Presidential Commission on Year 2000 Compliance.² Could there be a forthcoming commission for the 2038 bug?

While shifting to 64-bit operating systems will let our computers work beyond 2038, this does not ensure our computers' infallibility for all of eternity: it has a wraparound date that is scheduled to expire—threatening malfunction of future computers everywhere—one Sunday afternoon on 4 December 292277026596.

¹ computer.howstuffworks.com/bytes.htm

² chanrobles.com/articles7.htm



PORTABLE POWER

Words **KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA**

SCREWED WITHOUT YOUR SMARTPHONE? WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM THE MAINS AND NEED TO STAY CONNECTED, A POWER BANK CAN BE INVALUABLE. But not all power banks are created equal. They come in all shapes, sizes, and capacities, and you need to consider several factors—aside from portability and design—when choosing one.

Here are four things you need to know:

01 CAPACITY

Note that a power bank will not deliver its full advertised capacity to your device. Some of this energy is lost through heat generated and the internal circuitry of the power bank. Good power banks can give you between 70 and 80 percent, while some, like Anker power banks, can achieve around 85 percent efficiency. This means that if you have a phone with a 3,000mAh battery, you need a 10,000mAh power bank to give you a little over two full charges.

02 RECHARGE CYCLES AND LIFESPAN

Like any other rechargeable batteries, power banks have a recommended recharge cycle. A good

power bank will have 500 recharge cycles or thereabouts. This means that if you recharge your power bank once a day, its lifespan is around 500 days. Once this is consumed, your power bank will no longer be able to recharge to its usual capacity.

03 USB CABLE

USB cables have a data wire and a charging wire within the cable itself, and most of them are 28/28 gauge wires, which are notorious for slow charging because power can't get through as fast. (Note: the first number represents the gauge of the data wire, while the second number represents the gauge of the charging/power wire. The lower the number, the thicker the gauge.)

If you want to speed things up, get a 28/24 gauge cable. The 24 gauge is about 60 percent larger in diameter than the 28 gauge, and can handle two amps of current.

04 AUTO-CUT

To prevent your phone from getting overcharged, choose a power bank with a feature that automatically cuts off the electricity once your phone's battery is full.

Pimp your Android UI

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

Although Google announced last year that it would prohibit manufacturers from customizing the Android Wear, Auto, and TV, you can still tinker with the skin on your mobile device's Android OS to add some quirk to it. And you don't need root access!

Go beyond changing your wallpaper and ringtone. By using third-party apps, you can do so much more. We're not talking about reskinning Android like how device manufacturers do. But you can pretty much personalize how you interact with your device by changing your mobile device's user interface, including app icons, homescreen layouts, custom widgets, functions, animations, and the behavior of your homescreen, lockscreen, and app drawer.

Warning: this can get addicting.

Download a launcher

Go to the Google Play Store and choose a launcher to your liking. Launchers are apps that modify the Android user interface. These range from the more powerful home launchers (system-level customizability) and OS launchers (takes the skin/behavior of other operating systems—e.g., iOS and Windows Phone) to theme launchers (easy homescreen customizability). Your top options include Nova Launcher, GO Launcher, Espier Launcher, Themer, and Buzz Launcher. Try one and see if it fits your needs.

I enjoy themes, so my personal preference is Buzz Launcher. Like other theme launchers, it doesn't dive in too deep into the OS. What Buzz Launcher focuses on is homescreen themes. It provides an automatic setup, wherein you just choose a theme/homescreen and the launcher takes care of most of the settings.



Choose a theme

Most launchers have a cloud database of themes that you can download and install on your mobile device. Buzz Launcher calls these Homepacks. A Homepack is a package of homescreen wallpaper and app icons. You get access to different homescreen styles from tiles (a la Windows Phone) to typography. If you just want to replace your app icons, icon packs are there for you.

I have tried several homepacks, most of which come from other Buzz Launcher users who share their own creations. The ones that stick to me do so for weeks, while ho-hum homepacks I ditch after a day. That's the beauty of having a theme launcher; your multiple personalities and attention deficit are catered to. So, even if you choose a preset theme, go ahead and take liberty to customize them still.

Set custom widgets

Most launchers offer custom widgets. In fact, many if not all of them support ultimate custom widgets or UCCW and have themes that already use them. These widgets take customization right in your hands because you can actually create your own widgets and the icons that you wish to attach to them. That is, you can install a widget, set actions, customize its appearance, and assign your very own icon. The idea is to let you choose objects to combine in one widget and assign hotspots, or points on the widget that trigger action.

If you're not gifted with the visual talent or even graphics skills, just download UCCW skins from Google Play or from your launcher's database. This will allow you to have stylish clock widgets with a tap of your screen.

REMOVE PRIVATE INFO FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Words **LUIS ADRIAN HIDALGO**

DO YOU FANCY REPLACING YOUR SMARTPHONE THIS YEAR? IF YOU'RE THINKING OF SELLING YOUR OLD DEVICE, MAKE SURE TO CLEAR ALL YOUR DATA BEFORE HANDING IT OVER TO SOME STRANGER. JUST FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO WIPE YOUR DATA SECURELY.

iOS

Before you proceed, create a backup of your phone. You can do this by using iTunes or by syncing to iCloud.

Using iTunes, connect your device to your computer. Make sure you have the latest version of the software. Choose **File > Devices > Back up**. You can also initiate backup by simply syncing your device. When using iTunes Sync, backing up is the first step. Alternatively, you can use iCloud. Go to **Settings > iCloud > Backup**. Tap iCloud Backup to turn it on, and then tap Back Up Now. It will then proceed to back up your contents.

When done, you can proceed to wipe your device. Apple said all iPhones from 3GS onwards come with hardware encryption so you need not worry about someone recovering your deleted data. To do this, go to **Settings > General > Reset > Erase All Content and Settings**. Just wait for it to finish and that's it!

Android

Android phones are set up a little differently from manufacturer to manufacturer, but the general options are mostly similar. Make sure to have a backup of all your important data by syncing to your Google account (or whatever backup service your device manufacturer offers) and copy any other media files to your computer before proceeding to wipe your phone.

To do a factory reset, go to **Settings > Backup & reset > Factory data reset** and then tap **Erase phone data > Reset phone**. Doing this should wipe all your data off of your device.

But if you want to be extra sure, you can always opt to encrypt your phone. Encrypting makes it harder to access any data you erased. Go to **Settings > Security > Encrypt phone**. If you have an SD card inserted, you may also have the option to encrypt it. But before doing this, make sure your phone is fully charged, or just plug it to a charger as the process could take long depending on how much data you have.

Windows Phone

Windows Phone devices do not support encryption. That does not mean your data is completely unprotected. It just means that someone determined enough might be able to salvage remnants of your erased data. Sync to your Microsoft and OneDrive accounts and make sure you have a backup of all your important data.

To proceed with wiping your phone, check the apps list, go to **Settings > About > Reset your phone**. The phone will give you two warnings. If you're sure you want to proceed with the process, tap Yes twice. The procedure might take a while, but after it's done, it should have erased all data on your device.

If you still aren't comfortable with the thought of handing your phone to a stranger after reading this, maybe you should just hold on to it and keep it in your stash. You'd even get the chance to show it to your kid and say: "This is how phones look back in the day!"

Maximize Google's new email manager

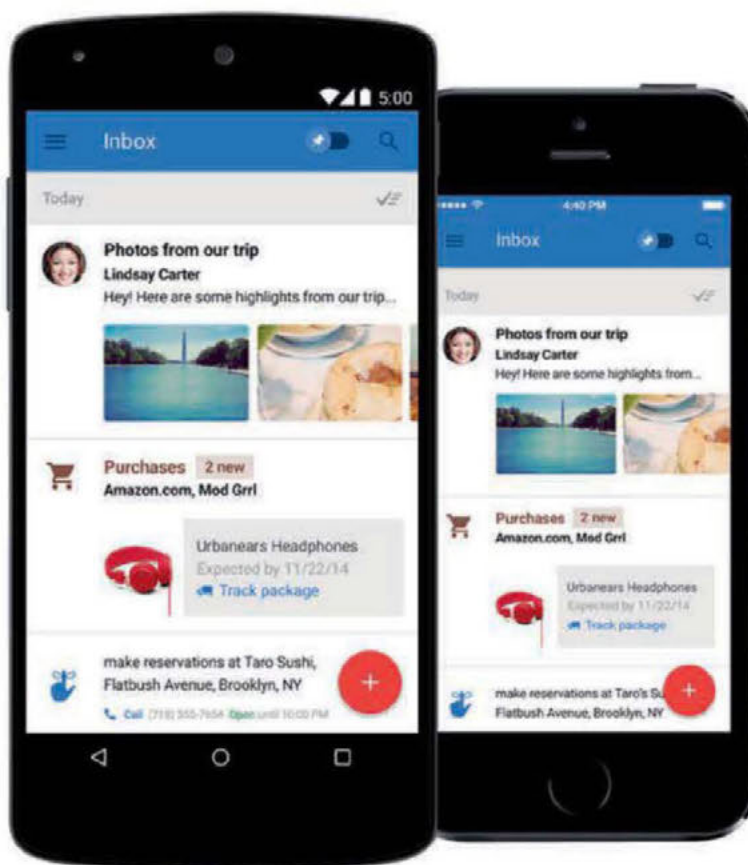
Words **LUIS ADRIAN HIDALGO**

Checking emails is an integral part of our lives nowadays, whether you're a professional, a student, or a homebody. Inbox by Gmail attempts to make life easier through lots of new features that Google hopes will help improve overall email experience.

Interested to sign up? Inbox is still an invitation-only service at the moment. While you're waiting for your invite, check out these tips on how you can make the most out of it.

Reminders

Are you always on the go? Got too much work to keep track of? With this feature, you no longer have to send yourself an email every time you need to remind yourself of something (a dinner date with your significant other, perhaps?). Create reminders right within Inbox and each will stick around as a sticky note in the Inbox view and Pinned View. No more misplaced post-its. No more lonely emails to your own inbox.



Search

When your emails stack up, you are most likely to lose track of which email has the info you need. Good thing the Inbox has a search feature. If you're looking for the email containing your next flight schedule, for instance, just type in keywords and let Inbox's search function do the digging for you.

Low Priority

You've got too many non-urgent emails coming in lately? Use the Low Priority label. Basically, this works just like marking an email "not important" in Gmail. Emails marked Low Priority can be bundled together in the Inbox view, or you can opt to have it skip the main view automatically by simply going to the Low Priority label settings. Goodbye, non-urgent emails!

Snooze

If you have emails that you'd rather not deal with right away, you can now snooze those emails and forget about them for the meantime. In the app, you can do this by swiping left on a thread; on the Web, click on the clock icon. Snooze options include later today, tomorrow, next week, or someday. Emails remain snoozed until you change the setting manually.

Pin emails

You've finally figured out which email is important and urgent after sifting through your inbox. Pin it up so you can find it at a moment's notice. Pinning emails in Inbox is like starring emails in Gmail. After an email is pinned, you can get back to it readily by toggling the switch on the top of the Inbox interface. Snoozed emails and reminders are also pinned automatically.

Done with it all

Let's say you're cleaning up your inbox when you suddenly come across an email that you've already read (or not, but you just know what it contains anyway). Just mark it done and do away with it. This feature does the same thing that archiving emails in Gmail does; it doesn't affect the email's status—whether it's been opened or not. You can access emails marked done via searches or in the app's Done section in the main menu. Pinning dismissed emails brings them back to the main view.

Bundles

Organize your inbox by grouping similar or related emails into bundles. Bundles work like the preset tabs in Gmail. You can move emails manually to and from your set bundles, but you also have the option to let Inbox do the sorting automatically in the future. Bundles can be accessed from the main Inbox menu.

Rid your mobile device of virus

Words **RON CRUZ**

Just because you use your smartphone more to surf the 'net doesn't save you from the lurking evil that is malware and viruses.

It could be an honest to goodness mistake from an innocent download, or the result of frequenting less-than-reputable websites, but viruses happen. After all, at its (quad) core, our smartphones are basically palm-sized computers.

You'd think that viruses and malware are desktop-exclusive problems, but rest assured that they aren't. We live by the saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, but if ever you find yourself with a malware-ridden mobile device, here's what you can do.

Figure out what's the culprit

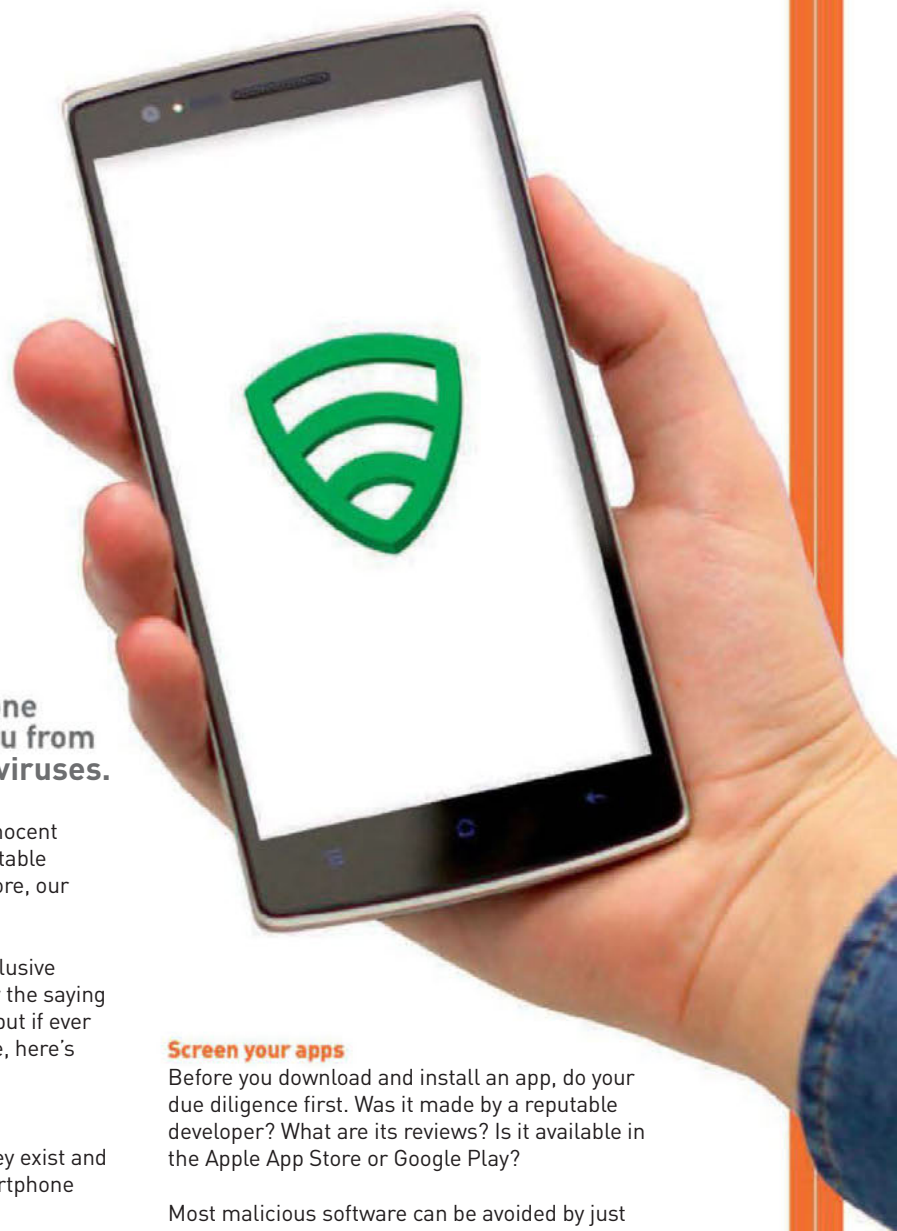
To be fair, viruses in mobile devices are fairly rare. They exist and continue to be a threat, but the likelihood of your smartphone getting infected is slim.

It is malware that you should be wary of. Did your smartphone become unbearably slow after installing a new app, or are there incessant popups every minute or so? You might have malware on your hands. More often than not, malware gets into your mobile's system when you install malicious apps, so that's where you can start. Once you've uncovered the malicious application, uninstall it as quickly as possible!

Install antivirus software

If you find yourself backed against the wall by the malware menace, call in reinforcements by adding antivirus applications. The bad news is that you're going to have to pay for it. Yes, there are free apps out there; but when you're already infected, they only act as a placebo. Bite the bullet and get an anti-malware app from a reputable company such as Kaspersky and Norton, and just learn from your mistakes.

With that said, prevention is key. It's better to be safe from the get go rather than being caught unawares.



Screen your apps

Before you download and install an app, do your due diligence first. Was it made by a reputable developer? What are its reviews? Is it available in the Apple App Store or Google Play?

Most malicious software can be avoided by just following this simple screening process. More often than not, malware apps are disguised as free imitations of popular paid apps, so a little awareness goes a long way in ensuring the health of your device. In the same vein, don't fall prey to phishing scams that bait you into clicking and installing programs. Ironically, random fake virus warnings are what ultimately lead to devices getting infected.

Don't install APK files

For Android users, the freedom to circumvent traditional installation methods by way of APK (Android application package) files is a double-edged sword. On one hand, you get access to an ocean of customization options and apps that aren't on the Android Market yet. But on the other, you expose yourself to malware threats. If you aren't familiar with the whole APK installation process, just don't do it.

NETWORK UPGRADE

Hi, *Speed*!

I'm working as an admin officer in a hardware

store. We are planning to update our NAS server. Can you help me find a server fit for an office of five people? It would be a big plus if it can support our surveillance system and protect data very well. Thank you!

Venneth Sison

Hi, Venneth.

A prosumer or SMB network-attached storage device would be perfect for your needs. These NASes are ideal for power users and small businesses, usually support multiple drives, and offer some sort of data redundancy. Devices from WD (My Cloud Mirror), Seagate (Central), and Synology (DiskStation DS412+) are some of the top-rated NASes not only locally but also abroad. QNAP and D-Link also have NAS enclosures worth considering.

Just remember that when choosing a NAS device, there are some very important factors you need to consider:

- It should be easy to set up.
- It should do the basic functionalities of a NAS well: sharing files, backing up data, and offering cloud service.
- It should have good data encryption and/or user access control.
- It should have good data redundancy and protection.

As for supporting your office's surveillance system, most NAS servers offer the ability to connect to cameras using downloadable software from their marketplace/app store.

But what's a NAS server for if your laptop runs out of power and your adapter is nowhere to be found?

The answer is **Airborne Technologies' Arsenal** power bank worth P9,450. With a whopping 24,000mAh capacity, it has enough juice to sustain your laptop—and then some. It's all yours if you run to the *Speed* office now.



WORRIED ABOUT Wi-Fi

Dear Editor,

I'm a sales agent and so I'm very mobile. Whenever I need to go online and send files to the office or to my clients using my laptop, I more often than not use free public Wi-Fi networks. Is there something I can do to increase my privacy? Thanks!

Nathan G.



You definitely should take precautions when using public Wi-Fi networks. Computers running Windows will hide your laptop from other computers and devices when it knows you're using a public network. When Windows logs on to a Wi-Fi network that it doesn't recognize, it will ask you how it should handle security—whether it's a home, work, or public network. Make sure Windows knows you're accessing a public network.

Additional precautions you should take include, but are not limited to the following:

- Use a good antivirus. A good firewall also helps.
- Don't do anything financial-related on a public network.
- Don't use your credit card or log on to your bank's online portal.
- Don't open encrypted or sensitive files.

SPEED UP CHARGING TIME

Dear *Speed*,

I use my smartphone a lot so I always have a power bank with me. Sometimes, though, even my power bank isn't enough and I still find myself staring at my phone's screen and looking desperately at the battery indicator, praying that it won't die on me before I could make/receive a call or send out an important SMS.

Is there a way I can speed up the charging time of my phone? For example, what if my power bank only has little power left and I need to juice up my phone enough for me to send a quick SMS?

Kathleen Sy



Hi, Kathleen. Yes, there's a way to charge your phone and resuscitate it fast.

You can either turn off your device completely or close any open apps and enable Airplane mode. Do note that all wireless radios on your device will be disabled once your phone is on Airplane mode, which means you can't make calls or access the Web, unless you enable Wi-Fi, which defeats the purpose.

Or, to avoid despair, it would be wise to bring your charger or an extra power bank if one isn't enough for you.



EXPERIENCE THE 'SMART LIFE' IN SMART STORES

SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (SMART) WANTS YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE "SMART LIFE" by transforming its retail stores from traditional telco hubs into a venue where people can discover and get a feel of what is described as today's digital lifestyle.

"The traditional Smart Stores are straightforward, functional areas where people apply for a postpaid plan or have their after-sales concerns attended to. The experience used to be quite impersonal. While customers can still complete these transactions in Smart Stores, they will experience so much more in the coming months," said Maloo Agoncillo, vice president and head of Retail Support at Smart.

In an event held at the Smart Store in Power Plant Mall, Makati, Smart launched lifestyle nooks featuring digital services that enable Filipinos to enjoy their passions more—the Music Hub, Reading Nook, Digital Mall, and Games Station. The nooks were also unveiled at Smart Stores in Robinsons Magnolia and SM Aura.



Jasmine Curtis-Smith at the Zalora nook



Smart executives Michele Curran (left) and Mellissa Limcaoco (right) check out the Buno reading nook.

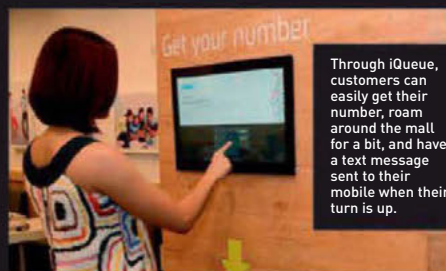
Aside from lifestyle nooks, the new-generation Smart Stores also feature customer service innovations such as the Digital Profiler, a touchscreen that enables visitors to learn more about the features of devices and plans so they could better decide which offers suit their needs, and the iQueue, an automated queuing system that allows customers to roam around the mall and attend to other needs while waiting for their turn to be served at the Smart Store. A text message will be sent to their number when their turn is up.



Digital Profiler gives users a peek into the details of the devices and plans they have in mind.



The launch of the next-generation Smart Stores, as well as the "Smart Life" concept, was graced by young stars and Smart celebrity endorsers Jasmine Curtis-Smith, James Reid, and Nadine Lustre. Also in photo are (from left) Smart executives Michele Curran, Mellissa Limcaoco, EVP and Wireless Consumer Division Head Charles A. Lim, Maloo Agoncillo, and Kathy Carag.



Through iQueue, customers can easily get their number, roam around the mall for a bit, and have a text message sent to their mobile when their turn is up.



The newly renovated Smart Store in Power Plant Mall, one among 18 other stores that have been transformed in the past year, features a café-inspired setup.

Gallery



Globe redefines retail with its GEN3 stores

GLOBE OPENS GEN3 FLAGSHIP STORES

GLOBE TELECOM IS UPPING THE ANTE IN INTERACTIVE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE WITH THE OPENING OF ITS GENERATION 3 STORES.

Last December, the telco giant unveiled its GEN3 stores simultaneously in SM North EDSA and Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro.

The stores are designed by founder and chief executive of Eight, Inc. Tim Kobe, who designed the flagship Apple Store in New York. "The space is dynamic. It changes with new stories and experiences that support different events and moments. We have elements that move and reconfigure, the way entertainment venues support great concerts or shows," said Kobe.

The stores feature various lifestyle zones—music, entertainment, life, and productivity—and will also serve as a venue to introduce the latest products, devices, and services offered by Globe.

Apart from reconfigured store displays, customers can also check out the Play Bar to explore the different featured apps and sit through one-on-one service consultations. Also available are self-service tools that allow better interaction with customer representatives through a video hotline.

Globe is set to convert more of its existing stores into GEN3 Stores this year.



From left: Eight, Inc. Founder Tim Kobe, SM Prime Board Director Hans Sy, Globe Head of Stores and Retail Transformation Joe Caliro, and Globe Chairman of the Board Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala



Eight, Inc. Founder Tim Kobe and Globe Telecom Chairman of the Board Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala



Globe senior leaders and partners with Tim Kobe (5th from left), Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (3rd from right) at the GEN3 store at SM North EDSA



Filipino celebrity and host Bianca Gonzalez, Globe President and CEO Ernest Cu, SM Prime's Hans Sy Jr., SingTel Group CEO Chua Sock Koong, Globe Chairman of the Board Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

Titan Motorwerks introduces new paint protection films

TITAN MOTORWERKS, A BUSINESS VENTURE BY CAR ENTHUSIASTS SIMON HEO, STEVEN TAGLE, AND RAFFY OCAMPO, INTRODUCED RECENTLY TO THE LOCAL MARKET TWO PAINT PROTECTION FILMS FOR CONSUMER VEHICLES.

DuraShield and XPEL Ultimate protect the vehicle's finish against the elements and the regular wear and tear.

DuraShield guards against daily wear and tear caused by small stones, insects, and other road debris. It can be applied to cars, trucks, RVs, SUVs, and boats.

XPEL Ultimate, on the other hand, sheds contaminants that could cause stains and yellowing of conventional protective films. XPEL features special elastomeric polymers that "heal" swirl marks and other fine scratches over time. It offers a 10-year warranty against yellowing, cracking, peeling, staining, and hazing, covering both film and labor.

DuraShield and XPEL Ultimate are practically invisible, so it won't interfere with the vehicle's appearance.

Titan Motorwerks has trained and certified staff for the installation of the products using a state-of-the-art facility. Their office is located at 2293 Don Chino Rocas Ave., Makati. For more information, you can also check out their website at titanmotorwerks.com.



ASUS EMPOWERS GAMERS IN THE GRAND FINALE 2014

ASUS Republic of Gamers, in partnership with Nvidia, participated in TheNet.Com's gaming event—The Grand Finale 2014—at the SM North Annex Cyberzone, where it showcased the latest technologies in PC gaming and computing, and allowed gamers to enjoy demanding games with available high-end setups.

One of the products displayed at the ASUS booth was the B85-Pro Gamer, a competitively priced gaming motherboard packed with features that enhance the user's gaming experience. The motherboard has a built-in SupremeFX audio solution that delivers unprecedented gaming audio, complemented by the Sonic Radar feature, providing users an intuitive display of in-game audio.

ENERGIZER POWERS WORLD'S FIRST BATTERY-OPERATED PLAYGROUND

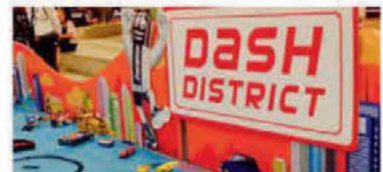
Energizer unveiled last December the world's first battery-operated playground at the TriNoma Activity Center in support of the brand's new campaign on Max Alkaline. By simply purchasing Energizer batteries, chargers, and flashlights, parents and kids were given one hour to enjoy various battery-operated toys.

Max Alkaline is a range of batteries that comes with Energizer's power seal technology, which protects battery-powered devices from damaging leaks.

Energizer also made a special donation to the Manikako Foundation and The HOPE Foundation.



For more information about the Energizer Playground, visit energizerbatteries.com.ph and facebook.com/energizerPH.



From left: Manuel A. Blas II (Managing Director of Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc.), Carlos S. Rufino (Trustee of Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc.), Dr. Gavin Dai (CEO of Huawei), and Austin Zhang (Huawei Director of Public Affairs & Communications)

HUAWEI DONATES P1M TO SUPPORT BONIFACIO ART FOUNDATION, INC.

Huawei Technologies Philippines, Inc. showed its support for the upcoming Asia Pacific Network of Science & Technology Centres (ASPAC) 2015 Annual Convention when it signed a Deed of Donation with beneficiary, Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc. and its project, The Mind Museum.

Two hundred global science practitioners will converge at The Mind Museum to discuss inspirational science communication.

Microsoft, HP power healthcare industry with tech solutions

Microsoft Philippines has partnered with HP to launch a productivity application for Filipino nurses dubbed "Nurse Mobility."

The application brings together solutions including Electronic Medical Records (EMR), Nurse Learning Management, and Office 365, among others, running on HP tablets.

In the partnership, Microsoft will provide solutions using Windows 8.1 devices, Office 365, and Microsoft Azure. HP, on the other hand, will create

and offer the Nurse Mobility Solution that will enable nurses to use technologies that are specifically designed for the Philippine healthcare industry.

Microsoft said the solution will allow nurses "to be more productive as care teams, anytime, anywhere, resulting in better health outcomes for patients."

"The Nurse Mobility solution represents Microsoft's commitment to helping nurses and organizations realize their full potential through technology," said Karrie Ilagan, Microsoft Philippines general manager. "With this partnership, we help enable nurses and hospitals to be smarter with their resources, be more productive, and transform the way they deliver healthcare services for Filipinos."



Epson ships 100 millionth HTPS panel for 3LCD projectors

EPSON REACHES ANOTHER MILESTONE WITH THE SHIPMENT OF ITS 100 MILLIONTH HTPS (HIGH-TEMPERATURE POLYSILICON) TFT LIQUID CRYSTAL PANEL FOR 3LCD PROJECTORS, A FIGURE THAT'S ENOUGH FOR MORE THAN 33.3 MILLION INDIVIDUAL PROJECTOR UNITS.

The panels, which started development at Epson in the 1980s, are the core devices at the heart of the company's 3LCD projectors.

"Thirteen consecutive years as the world's no. 1 projector maker is a testament to Epson's industry-leading technologies that give our projectors an undeniable edge over competition," says Epson Philippines Corporation's President/Country Manager, Toshimitsu Tanaka.

Mitsubishi Mirage G4 runs 1,647km on single tank, sets record



Mitsubishi Motors Philippines made history as the Mirage G4 traveled from Laoag to General Santos, and then to Davao last December 2014, setting a new record for the distance traveled on a single tank of fuel.

The Mitsubishi Mirage G4 Eco Drive Marathon is comprised of three teams with two drivers each, two Mitsubishi Mirage G4s, and one Mitsubishi Mirage hatchback.

The Mirage G4 with manual transmission ran 1,647km on one full tank of fuel, while the Mirage G4 with CVT did 1,518km. Both cars used Shell fuel and Bridgestone tires.

MEPAY PROMOTES CASHLESS ONLINE SHOPPING

You can now shop online even if you don't have a credit or debit card with Smart Communication Inc.'s MePay payment platform.

Developed by Smart's money service, Smart e-Money, Inc. (SMI) and in partnership with Zalora Philippines, MePay only requires a Philippine mobile number upon sign-up to allow customers without a credit card to shop online with Zalora. Initially, MePay users can top-up their accounts through direct transfers from Smart Money accounts or through any of the 30,000 Smart Money Padala centers nationwide.

"We are aggressively rolling out the MePay platform across more online merchants in the Philippines, as well as activating the ability to add more fund sources in the months to come," said Benjie Fernandez, SMI chief operating officer.



From left: Zalora executives Constantin Robertz, Paulo Campos, and Martin Cu (fourth from left), as well as SMI executives Paolo Azola (third from left), Benjie Fernandez, and Lawrence Ferrer.

For now users can use MePay on Zalora, but expect to see more partners soon, including Easy Taxi, Food Panda, ClickBus, and TripDa. MePay can also be used to pay utility bills soon.

For more information about MePay, simply visit MePay.ph.

Honda Cars Makati extends reign as customer service champs

Representatives from Ayala-owned Honda Cars Makati, Inc. (HCMi) proved that they're still the best when it comes to customer service when they commanded yet again a strong, solid finish at the 13th National Customer Service Skills Competition organized by Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI).

Competing against 32 dealerships nationwide, technicians, service advisors, and Preventive Maintenance (PM) Telemarketing specialists from Honda Cars Makati, Pasig, Alabang, Shaw, and Global City made an almost-clean sweep of this annual battle of technical skills and knowledge including customer handling practices. Twenty-one finalists from HCMi displayed their proficiency in the Quick Pair, General Repair, and

Team categories and emerged as champions in all three. The team also owned the top five awards in the General Repair and Team categories and all three finalists of the Quick Pair category captured the champion, 2nd runner-up, and 3rd runner-up slots.

To date, Ayala-owned HCMi takes pride in having five major international skills and knowledge awards from the Honda Asia Oceania Competition, 10 Body Repair and Paint awards, and 42 Mechanical Awards both in the National Technicians Contest. The group also has nine gold awards and five silver awards in Regional, National, and International Quality Circle contests.



Honda Cars Makati, Inc. won 8 out of 9 major awards in this year's National Customer Service Skills Competition and successfully defended their championship titles.

SANTÉ BARLEY MAX PROVIDES NUTRIENTS ON THE GO

Santé Barley Max, which launched officially in September 2014, provides needed nutrients in capsule form. With all the vitamins, enzymes, minerals, and constituents that Santé Barley Max has, it is a complete green food source. Actor-athlete Piolo Pascual and businessman-triathlete Keith Peralta are known Santé Barley Max users.

Santé Barley Max is made of pure, fresh, natural, and organic young barley grass from New Zealand. It contains the vegetables you need to consume in capsule form. Continuous consumption of Santé Barley Max helps maintain good health, reduce risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, improve digestive health, and reduce pain and inflammation.

Santé Barley Max is available at Mercury Drug, Watsons, and all leading drugstores nationwide. For more information, contact (02) 667-3722, (0998) 964-3627, or [facebook.com/santebarleymax](https://www.facebook.com/santebarleymax).



Lenovo opens 3rd Mobile Exclusive Store in Davao

Lenovo recently opened its third Lenovo Mobile Exclusive Store (LMES) in Davao, one of the richest cities in the Philippines outside of Metro Cebu and Metro Manila.

The newly opened store is operated by Banana Telecommunications Inc. and is located at the 3rd floor of Gaisano Mall in Tagum, Davao. The first LMES opened in October 2013 in Gaisano Mall, Davao and the second store opened last year in Abreeza Mall, Davao.

"The Philippines is an important market for Lenovo because we have seen a significant and steady increase in local smartphone shipments. Through the continuous expansion of our LMES in the country, we are reaching out to Philippine consumers, especially the younger segment of the population, whose lifestyle demands for high-performing and reliable mobile devices," Lenovo Mobile Country Head Dino Romano said.

The concept store houses a wide range of Lenovo smartphones to address the needs of the region. The Lenovo Vibe Series is currently the brand's top-of-the-line products for executives doing business in Davao. Meanwhile, the Lenovo A Series includes a wide range of products powered by dual- and quad-core processors running on Android Jelly Bean, targeted at budget-conscious consumers.



Mango celebrates 15 years of fashion in PH

MANGO CELEBRATED ITS 15-YEAR MILESTONE IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH A FASHION SHOW FEATURING ITS AUTUMN/WINTER COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTING PALETTES OF CAMELS, KHAKIS, BLACKS, WHITES, AND GRAYS.

Models strutted down the catwalk at Raven Boutique Club wearing some must-have oversized garments in slouchy yet sharply geometric silhouettes.

The Barcelona-based fashion label has won the hearts of Filipino consumers since its fashion-forward and classic retail mix was first introduced locally in 1999. Now it has 35 stores offering a retail mix of the brand powerhouse through its Mango, Mango Man, Mango Sports & Intimates, Mango Kids, and Mango Touch lines.

Mango is located at Robinsons Ermita, Shangri-la Plaza, Power Plant Mall, Gateway, SM Mall of Asia, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, SM Davao, SM Clark, Ayala Cebu, TriNoma Mall, SM Cebu, Greenbelt 5, Eastwood Mall, Marquee Mall, Newport Mall, Abreeza Mall, Lucky Chinatown, Bonifacio High Street, Robinsons Magnolia, Centrio Mall, Subic Harbor Point, Glorietta 2, Ayala Fairview Terraces, and SM BF Parañaque.

Store Directory

Airborne Technologies




(02) 508-5175
GFS 8&9 Eton Centris
Station, Edsa cor. Quezon
Ave., Quezon City
airbornetech.in

Amazon

amazon.com

American Tourister

Available at all American
Tourister stores and in
Landmark, Robinsons,
Rustan's, Metro Gaisano,
and SM Department Stores
nationwide

 /AmericanTouristerPh
 @americantouristerph
 @amertouristerph

ASUS

ASUS Technology
Philippines, Inc.
(02) 634-0309
4/F Hanston Bldg.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig
ph.asus.com

Bang & Olufsen

Living Innovations
Corporation
(02) 830-2230/812-2649/
894-5766
Unit 207 2/F Makati
Shangri-La Hotel Retail
Arcade, Ayala Ave., Makati
livinginnovations.ph

BlackBerry

Globe Telecom, Inc.
(02) 730-1000
5/F Globe Telecom Plaza 1,
Pioneer cor. Madison St.,
Mandaluyong
globe.com.ph

Smart Communications, Inc.
(02) 888-1111
SMART Tower,
6799 Ayala Ave., Makati
smart.com.ph

Sun Cellular
(02) 395-8000
suncellular.com.ph

Birkenstock

Available at Shoe Salon
stores in Glorietta 3, SM Mall
of Asia, Robinsons Ermita,
Robinsons Magnolia,
Power Plant, Shangri-La
Plaza, TriNoma, Fairview
Terraces, Harbor Point Subic,
Marquee Mall Pampanga,
and Ayala Cebu

Bomberg

Available at Washington
stores in Shangri-La Plaza,
SM Megamall, Greenbelt 1,
Power Plant, Glorietta 4, and
SM North EDSA
bomberg.ch

Dell

Available at Abenson, Accent
Micro, Avant, Electroworld,
Octagon, PC Live, Silicon
Valley
dell.com.ph

DJI

dji.com

Dockers

asia.dockers.com/EU/en_GB
 /dockers.ph

emie

Mobile Element Distribution
Enterprise
mobileelement.com.my

FiiO

fiiio.net
 /fiiophil

Garmin

Navco
(02) 382-1898
3/F Millenium Place, Meralco
Ave. cor. Julia Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig
ph.garmin.com
navco.com.ph

Gionee

Gionee Concept Store
4/F SM CyberZone, SM
Megamall, Bldg. B.,
Mandaluyong
global.gionee.com

Google Cardboard

google.com
google.com/get/cardboard/

Huawei

Huawei Technologies
Phils., Inc.
(02) 815-8808
Unit 5302 53/F PBCOM
Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino
St., Salcedo Village, Makati
huawei.com/ph

Hyundai

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.
(02) 813-6788 to 89
10-12/F, KPMG Center,
6787 Ayala Ave., Makati
hyundai.com/ph

Kimtigo

kimtigo.net

Lacoste

Available at L Timestudio,
Wristpod, select Chronos
Boutiques, SM Department
Stores, The Landmark, and
Robinsons Department
Stores

Lenovo

Lenovo (Philippines) Ltd.
(02) 558-5700
10/F 11th Corporate Center,
11th Ave. cor. Triangle Dr.,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
lenovo.com/ph

LG

LG Electronics Philippines Inc.
(02) 902-5544
15/F Legaspi St., Maybunga,
Pasig
lg.com/ph

Meizu

meizu.com/en/

Microsoft

Microsoft Philippines
(02) 860-8989
16/F Ayala Office Tower, 6750
Ayala Ave., Makati
microsoft.com/en-ph/

Mimoco

mimoco.com

MiPow

Available at PowerMac,
Switch, iStudio, Rustan's,
Abenson, MiPow SM
Megamall and SM Ayala
Concept Stores, Mobile1,
SM Department Stores,
SM Appliance, Memomaxpress,
and A Shop
MiPow.com
 /mipow.philippines

Montblanc

Available at Montblanc
Manila boutiques at
Rustan's Ayala, Rustan's
Mandaluyong, and Newport
Mall Pasay
montblanc.com

Nike

Nike Philippines
(02) 802-7235
10/F Marajo Tower, 312
26th St. West cor. 4th Ave.,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
nike.com/ph/en_gb

Nikon

ThinkDharma Inc.
(02) 754-8061
TAO Corporate Center,
2291 Don Chino Rocas Ave.,
Makati
nikon.ph

Ozaki

ozakiverse.com

People People

peoplepeople.se

Philips

EA Global Supply Chain
Solutions, Inc.
(02) 655-7777
Units 2907-2912 29/F One
Corporate Centre, Julia
Vargas cor. Meralco Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig
philips.com.ph

Razer

[razerzone.com/osvr-hacker-](http://razerzone.com/osvr-hacker-dev-kit)
dev-kit
osvr.com

READY Jeans

betabrand.com

Samsung

Available at all Samsung
stores and authorized
retailers
samsung.com/ph

Sony

Sony Philippines
(02) 878-7600/860-3333
11/F Marajo Tower, 312
26th St., West cor. 4th Ave.,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
sony.com.ph

Subaru

Motor Image Philippines, Inc.
(02) 727-3687/727-8333/
721-8958
187 EDSA Greenhills,
San Juan
subaru-global.com

Swiss Military

Available at Swissgear in SM
Lanang, District Mall Imus,
and TriNoma; Wristpod in
SM Megamall, SM Harbour
Point, SM North Edsa,
SM Clark Pampanga, SM
Fairview Terraces, and SM
San Lazaro; L Timestudio in
KCC Gensan, District Mall
Talisay, Greenbelt 1, Ermita,
Marquee, and Lipa; and
select department stores
nationwide

TechnoMarine

Available at SM Megamall,
Shangri-La Plaza, TriNoma,
Greenbelt 3, Robinsons
Galleria, Robinsons
Magnolia, SM North
Edsa, and SM City Cebu.
TechnoMarine watches are
also available at MyTempo
and select My Diamond
stores.

Tonino Lamborghini

lamborghini-mobile.com/en/

Torque

Available at all Torque kiosks
and authorized retailers
lovekotorque.com

Toshiba

Toshiba Philippines, Inc.
(632) 459-0211
42/F GT Tower International
6833 Ayala Ave., Makati
toshiba.ph

Veho

veho-world.com
 /vehophilippines
 @VehoPhilippines

VSN Mobil

vsnmobil.com

Welder

Available at White Halo
SM Aura, My Tempo Resorts
World Manila, and select
My Diamond stores

Wolf

Available at Lucerne
Shangri-La Plaza, Lucerne
Ayala Cebu, Lucerne
Glorietta 4, Lucerne Solaire,
Chronos SM Megamall,
Chronos Glorietta 3, Swiss
Gear Greenbelt 1, Swiss
Gear SM Cebu, Swiss
Gear TriNoma, Swiss Gear
Greenhills, Adora Greenbelt 5,
Elemento SM Aura and
Le Temps Resorts World
wolf1834.com

Xiaomi

8/F Don Pable Bldg.,
114 Amorsolo Ave., Makati
mi.com/ph/

YotaPhone

yotaphone.com/gb-en/

Zano

Torquing Group Ltd.
flyzano.com

Zeiss

zeissvrone.tumblr.com

Zendure

zendure.com

ZTE

ZTE Philippines
(02) 856-4711
16/F Petron Megaplaza
Bldg., 358 Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati
zte.com.cn/en/



Buyer's Guide

SAVE OR SPLURGE,
THIS LIST IS ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED



126

UNDER
P10,000

129

UNDER
P20,000

132

P20,000
AND ABOVE



Acer Liquid Z1
P8,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.7" 1280 x 720 TFT capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB
- dual SIM/standby



Acer Liquid Z5
P5,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz dual-core Cortex-A7 processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP/VGA front camera
- 5" 480 x 854 TFT capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB
- dual SIM



ASUS MeMO Pad HD 7
P6,995 (8GB)
P8,995 (16GB)

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP (16GB)/ 2MP (8GB) rear, 1.2 MP (16GB)/ 0.3MP (8GB) front camera
- 7" 1280 x 800 LED IPS display
- 8/16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB



ASUS MeMO Pad 8
P9,995

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Bluetooth 3.0, WLAN, microUSB



ASUS Zenfone 5
P6,495

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.6/2GHz dual-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 display
- 8/16GB built-in, microSD, 1/2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB



Cherry Mobile Alpha Play
P7,999

- Windows 8.1
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3735D Processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB



Cherry Mobile Omega AEON
P5,999

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean with KitKat update
- 1.2GHz Qualcomm MSM8212 Snapdragon processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" HD IPS display with OGS
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and WiFi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, microUSB



Cherry Mobile Omega Icon
P6,499

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" HD IPS display
- 4GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and WiFi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0



Cherry Mobile Razor 2.0
P6,499

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 12MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" HD IPS display
- 4GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G
- dual SIM



Cherry Mobile Ultra
P8,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean with KitKat update
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8926 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 HD display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot, Bluetooth, GPS



Cherry Mobile Superion Endeavor
P5,499

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7" IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- HSPA+ Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB OTG



Cherry Mobile Superion Navigator
P6,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" IPS display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, 3G



Cherry Mobile Superion Odyssey
P7,499

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7.85" 1024 x 768 IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, HDMI, USB



Cherry Mobile Superion Vector
P5,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7" IPS display
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0
- dual SIM



DTC GT17 Jupiter
P6,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" 960 x 540 HD display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM/standby



Gionee GPad G5
P9,450

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.5GHz hexa-core processor, PowerVR Series 5XT GPU
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.7" 720 x 1280 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM



Happy Mobile Oracle
P9,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.5GHz octa-core processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" HD OGS IPS display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG



Huawei Ascend G610
P9,699

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 5" 540 x 960 qHD display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, 3G
- dual SIM/standby



Lenovo A526
P6,299

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MT6582M processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 4.5" 854 x 480 capacitive touchscreen
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 2G, 3G
- dual SIM



Lenovo A859
P6,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP front camera
- 5" 720 x 1280 IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, 2G/3G
- dual SIM



Lenovo S660
P9,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MTK 6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 4.7" 960 x 540 IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 2G, 3G, microUSB
- dual SIM



MyPhone Agua Ocean Elite
P8,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core Mediatek MT6582 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" HD IPS capacitive touchscreen
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG
- dual SIM



MyPhone Agua Ocean Pro
P6,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.5" qHD IPS capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, 3G



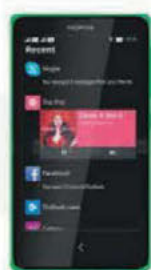
MyPhone Infinity Lite
P7,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.4GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592M processor
- 8MP rear with LED flash, 5MP front camera
- 4.7" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, USB OTG
- dual SIM



Nokia Lumia 520
P7,990

- Windows Phone 8
- 1GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 5MP rear camera
- 4" 800 x 480 IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB



Nokia X
P5,990

- Nokia X
- 1GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 processor
- 3MP rear camera
- 4" 800 x 480 capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, WLAN, USB 2.0, microUSB
- dual SIM/standby



OPPO Joy
P5,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz dual-core processor
- 3MP rear, VGA front camera
- 4" WVGA display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi hotspot, DLNA, microUSB
- dual SIM



OPPO Neo 3
P7,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz dual-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.5" 480 x 800 IPS LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB 2.0, microUSB



Samsung GALAXY S Duos 2
P7,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core Cortex A9 processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 4" 480 x 800 TFT display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 0.75GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 2G, 3G, USB 2.0
- dual SIM



Samsung GALAXY Tab 3 Lite
P7,490

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core processor
- 2MP rear camera
- 7" 1024 x 600 display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB



Skyworth S7000
P7,995

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core ARM Cortex A9 processor
- 2MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 7" 800 x 400 capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, miniHDMI, microUSB



Sony Xperia E1
P6,590 (single SIM)
P7,490 (dual SIM)

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 200 processor
- 3MP rear camera
- 4" 480 x 800 TFT display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 2.0



Starmobile Diamond D1
P7,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 12MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" capacitive touchscreen
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM/standby



Starmobile Diamond S1
P8,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek processor
- 12MP rear, 3MP front camera
- 5" qHD LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3.5G
- dual SIM/standby



Starmobile Diamond S2
P9,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek processor
- 12MP rear, 3MP front camera
- 6" qHD LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3.5G
- dual SIM/standby



Starmobile Diamond S3
P8,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.5" qHD LCD
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3.5G
- dual SIM/standby



Starmobile Engage 8 Quad
P6,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1GHz quad-core ARM Cortex A7 processor
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera
- 7.85" capacitive IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi



Starmobile Engage 8 3G
P9,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6589 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 7.85" 1024 x 768 IPS capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G



Starmobile Engage 9i
P9,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 2GHz dual-core Intel Atom Z2580 processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8.9" 1920 x 1200 IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG



Xiaomi Redmi 1S
P5,599

- MIUI based on Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP front camera
- 4.7" 720 x 1280 IPS display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, A2DP, USB OTG, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM/standby



ZTE Grand X2
P5,280

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6589 processor
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera
- 5" 960 x 540 display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM



ZTE Grand X2 L
P6,980

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, VGA front camera
- 5.5" qHD IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual SIM/standby



Acer Liquid Jade
P14,990

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth, microUSB
- dual SIM



Acer Liquid E700
P10,990

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2 GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, A-GPS
- triple SIM (microSIM)



Apple iPad mini 2 (Wi-Fi)

- **P15,490 (16GB)**
P17,990 (32GB)
- iOS 8
- A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion coprocessor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 7.9" 2048 x 1536 LED-backlit Retina display
- 16/32GB built-in, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0



ASUS MeMO Pad 10
P13,995

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core processor
- 2MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 10.1" 1280 x 800 LED IPS display
- 8GB/16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Bluetooth 3.0, WLAN, microUSB



ASUS Zenfone 6
P11,995

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2GHz dual-core processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 6" 1280 x 720 display
- 8/16/32GB built-in, microSD, 1/2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB



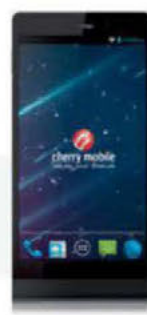
BlackBerry Z3
P10,990

- BlackBerry 10
- 1.2GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM8230 processor
- 5MP rear, 1.1MP front camera
- 5" 540 x 960 capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, HDMI, microUSB



Cherry Mobile Alpha Morph
P11,999

- Windows 8.1
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3735D Processor
- 2MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 10" 720 x 1280 HD IPS display
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB OTG
- Keyboard Dock



Cherry Mobile Cosmos Z2
P12,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592 processor, Mali 450MP GPU
- 18MP rear camera, 8MP front camera
- 5" IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0



Cherry Mobile Omega Infinity
P14,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592 processor
- 18MP rear camera, 8MP front camera
- 5.5" IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, 3G/4G



Cherry Mobile Titan Pro
P10,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT689 processor, PowerVR SGX544 GPU
- 12MP rear camera, 2MP front camera
- 5" IPS LCD
- 4GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB
- dual SIM



Gionee Elife E7 Mini
P13,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean, upgradeable to 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core Mediatek MT6592 processor, Mali-450MP4 GPU
- 13MP rotating camera
- 4.7" IGZO capacitive touchscreen
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, USB OTG
- dual SIM (microSIM)



Happy Mobile Prive
P11,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core processor
- 13MP rear, 8MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.5" HD OGS IPS Display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi Miracast, GPS
- dual SIM



HP Slate6 VoiceTab
P14,990

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 6" 720 x 1280 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB



Lenovo A8-50 Tablet
P10,499

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MTK8121/ MTK8382 processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 HD display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G



Lenovo S850
P13,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek 6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.5MP front camera
- 5" 1280 x 720 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, GPS



Lenovo S860
P15,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek 6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.5MP front camera
- 5.3" 1280 x 720 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB
- dual SIM/standby



Lenovo Vibe X2
P18,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6595M True8Core processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5" 1920 x 1200 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, 4G LTE, HSPA+
- optional dual SIM/standby (microSIM)



Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 8"
P13,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP HD front camera
- 8" 1920 x 1200 IPS LED LCD Touch
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n, microUSB, OTG, Bluetooth 4.0



Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 10"
P19,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.86GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP HD front camera
- 10.1" 1920 x 1200 IPS LCD Touch
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- LTE, Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n, Wi-Fi hotspot, microUSB, OTG, Bluetooth 4.0



LG G3 Beat
P13,990

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.3MP front camera
- 5" 720 x 1280 IPS capacitive display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, 3G



LG G3 Stylus
P16,990

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 13MP rear, 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.5" 540 x 960 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0
- dual SIM/standby (microSIM)
- stylus



LG G Pad 8.3
P16,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor
- 5MP rear, 1.3MP front camera
- 8.3" 1920 x 1200 Full HD IPS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, HDMI, microUSB



MyPhone Infinity
P12,999

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core Mediatek MT6592 processor
- 16MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5" Full HD IPS display; Corning Gorilla Glass 2
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB OTG
- dual SIM



Nokia Lumia 625
P13,200

- Windows Phone 8
- 1.2GHz dual-core Krait CPU, Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 chipset, Adreno 305
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.7" 800 x 480 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC, microUSB



Nokia Lumia 720
P14,590

- Windows Phone 8
- 1GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM8227 CPU, Adreno 305 GPU
- 6.1MP rear, 1.3MP front camera; 720p video recording
- 4.3" 800 x 480 display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, NFC, microUSB



Nokia Lumia 820
P17,250

- Windows Phone 8
- 1.5GHz dual-core Krait processor, Adreno 225 GPU
- 8MP rear (Carl Zeiss optics), VGA front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.3" 800 x 480 display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC, microUSB



Nokia Lumia 1320
P17,900

- Windows Phone 8
- 1.7GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 processor
- 5MP rear, 0.3MP front camera
- 6" 1280 x 720 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, WLAN, LTE, USB 2.0, microUSB



OPPO Find 5 Mini
P13,990

- Color OS (based on Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean)
- 1.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" 540 x 960 IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB



OPPO N1
P19,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor
- 13MP rear camera
- 5.9" 1080 x 1920 IPS HD display
- 16/32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



OPPO R1
P16,990

- Color OS (based on Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean)
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- 8MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5" 720 x 1280 IPS display
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G
- dual SIM



OPPO Yoyo
P10,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 4.7" IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, GPS, microUSB 2.0
- HotKnot: screen-to-screen transmission



Samsung GALAXY Grand 2
P13,990

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera
- 5.25" 1280 x 720 TFT display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, USB 2.0, microUSB
- dual SIM



Samsung GALAXY Mega 5.8
P18,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.4GHz dual-core processor
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.8" 540 x 960 TFT display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB
- optional dual SIM (micro SIM)



Samsung GALAXY S4 Zoom
P14,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.9GHz quad-core Cortex-A9 processor, Mali-400 GPU
- 16MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.3" 540 x 960 Super AMOLED display
- 18GB built-in, microSD, 512MB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



Sony Xperia E3
P10,490

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8926-2 Snapdragon 400 processor
- 5MP rear, VGA front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.5" IPS capacitive display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G
- microSIM



Sony Xperia M2
P14,190

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 8MP rear, VGA front camera
- 4.8" 540 x 960 TFT capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, NFC, microUSB



Sony Xperia M2 Aqua
P16,490

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor
- 8MP rear, VGA front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.8" IPS capacitive LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- microSIM



Sony Xperia T2 Ultra
P18,990

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.4GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor
- 13MP rear, 1.1MP front camera
- 6" 720 x 1280 IPS LCD
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, DLNA, NFC, LTE, microUSB



Starmobile Diamond V7
P11,990

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.2GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6589 processor
- 18MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 5.7" 720 x 1280 IPS display
- 4GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, dual 3G
- dual SIM/standby



Starmobile Diamond X1
P13,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek processor
- 18MP rear, 8MP front camera
- 6" HD IPS capacitive display
- 8GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G
- dual standby



Starmobile Knight X
P15,990

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6595M processor
- 13MP Sony Exmor RS rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- microUSB 2.0, USB OTG, Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n/ac, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE, 3G
- dual SIM



Xiaomi Mi 3
P10,599

- MIUI V5 [based on Android 4.3]
- 2.3GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5" 1920 x 1080 Full HD display
- 16GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC



ZTE Vec
P11,980

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- Octa-core processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera; 1080p video
- 5" HD multi-touch display
- 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, GPS, microUSB
- dual SIM



ZTE Vec 4G
P12,980

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 MSM8926
- 8MP rear, 1MP front camera
- 5" 720x1280 IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, USB 2.0, microUSB, 4G LTE



ZTE Nubia Z5S Mini (NX404H)
P14,990

- Android 4.3
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 4.7" 1280 x 720 312ppi HD Sharp IGZO display
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 32GB, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth



- Apple iPad Air**
Wi-Fi: P20,490 (16GB);
P22,990 (32GB)
Wi-Fi + cellular: P26,990 (16GB);
P29,490 (32GB)
- iOS 8
 - A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion processor
 - 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
 - 9.7" 2048 x 1536 LED-backlit Retina display
 - 16/32/64/128GB built-in, 1GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE



- Apple iPad mini 2**
(Wi-Fi + cellular)
P21,990 (16GB)
P24,490 (32GB)
- iOS 8
 - A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion processor
 - 5MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
 - 7.9" 2048 x 1536 LED-backlit Retina display
 - 16/32/64/128GB built-in, 512MB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE



- Apple iPhone 5c**
P22,490
- iOS 7
 - 1.3GHz dual-core A7 chip with 64-bit architecture, M7 motion co-processor
 - 8MP rear, 1.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
 - 4" 1136 x 640 widescreen multi-touch Retina display
 - 8GB built-in, 1GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB



- Apple iPhone 5s**
P30,490 (16GB)
P33,490 (32GB)
- iOS 7
 - 1.3GHz dual-core A7 chip with 64-bit architecture, M7 motion co-processor
 - 8MP with 1.5µ pixels rear, 1.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
 - 4" 1136 x 640 widescreen multi-touch Retina display
 - 16/32GB built-in, 1GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB
 - Fingerprint sensor



- Apple iPhone 6**
P35,990 (16GB)
P41,990 (64GB)
P47,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
 - A8 chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
 - 8MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
 - 4.7" 1334 x 750 326ppi LED-backlit Retina display
 - 16/64/128GB built-in, 1GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC
 - Fingerprint sensor
 - nano SIM



- Apple iPhone 6 Plus**
P41,990 (16GB)
P47,990 (64GB)
P53,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
 - A8 chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
 - 8MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
 - 5.5" 1920 x 1080 401ppi LED-backlit Retina display
 - 16/64/128GB built-in, 1GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC
 - Fingerprint sensor
 - nano SIM



- ASUS Padfone Infinity**
P37,990 (32GB)
P41,990 (64GB)
- Android 4.1 Jelly Bean
 - 1.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm APQ8064T Snapdragon 600 processor, Adreno 320 GPU
 - 13MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
 - 5" 1920 x 1080 Super IPS display
 - 32GB/64GB built-in, 2GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC



- ASUS Transformer Book T100**
P23,995
- Windows 8.1
 - 1.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3740 processor
 - 1.2MP front camera
 - 10.1" 1366 x 768 display
 - 32/64GB built-in, 2GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, microUSB



- BlackBerry Passport**
P35,790
- BlackBerry 10.3
 - 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
 - 13MP w/ OIS and LED flash rear, 2MP front camera
 - 4.5" 1440 x 1440 453ppi IPS display
 - 32GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n/ac, Wi-Fi Direct, Bluetooth 4.0, A2DP, NFC, Miracast, USB 2.0



- BlackBerry Z10**
P29,990
- BlackBerry 10 upgradable to v.10.1
 - 1.5GHz dual-core processor
 - 8MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
 - 4.2" 768 x 1280 capacitive display
 - 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, NFC, microUSB



- Gionee Elife E7**
P24,500
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
 - 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
 - 16MP rear, 8MP front camera
 - 5.5" 1080 x 1920 Full HD IPS display
 - 32GB built-in, 3GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, microUSB

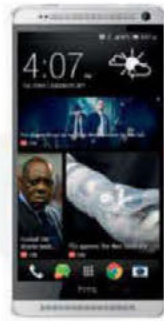


- Gionee Elife S5.5**
P21,999
- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
 - 1.7GHz octa-core Cortex-A7 processor
 - 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
 - 5" 1080 x 1920 Super AMOLED capacitive display
 - 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
 - Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, USB OTG



HTC One
P32,990

- Android 4.1.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Krait 300 CPU
- Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 4MP Ultrapixel rear, 2.1MP front camera; 1080p video recording with HDR
- 4.7" 1920 x 1080 Super LCD 3
- 32/64GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



HTC One max
P37,790

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz quad-core Krait 300 CPU
- Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 4MP Ultrapixel rear, 2.1MP front camera; 1080p video recording with HDR
- 5.9" 1920 x 1080 Super LCD 3
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



HTC One mini
P25,390

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.4GHz dual-core Krait 200 CPU
- Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 4MP rear, 1.6MP front camera; 1080p video recording with HDR
- 4.3" 720 x 1280 Super LCD 2
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



Huawei Ascend Mate 7
P27,890

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.8GHz Cortex-A15 + quad-core 1.3GHz Cortex-A7 HiSilicon Kirin 925 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 6" 1080 x 1920 IPS LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD up to 128GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0, NFC



Huawei Ascend P7
P20,990

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat with Huawei Emotion UI 2.3
- 1.8GHz quad-core Hisilicon Kirin 910T
- 13MP rear with flash, 8MP front camera
- 5" 1920x1080 Full HD INCELL touch-sensitive screen
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB 2.0



Lenovo Miix 2
P21,999

- Windows 8.1
- 1.8GHz quad-core Intel Atom processor
- 5MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 HD IPS display
- 64GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB



Lenovo ThinkPad 8
P25,490 (Wi-Fi only)
P30,000 (3G)

- Windows 8.1
- 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Z3770 processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 8.3" 1200 x 1920 multi-touch IPS display
- 64/128GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, microHDMI, USB 3.0
- microSIM (WWAN version)



Lenovo Vibe Z2 Pro
P29,999

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 16MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 6" 1440 x 2560 IPS capacitive LCD
- 32GB built-in, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, microUSB, GPS, 3G
- dual SIM (microSIM)



Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro
P33,999

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745 processor
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP HD front camera
- 13.3" 2560 x 1440 IPS LED LCD Touch
- 32GB built-in, microSD up to 64GB, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n, MiMo, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB



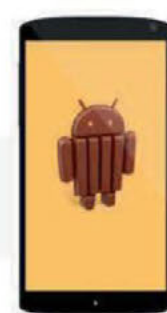
LG G Pro 2
P32,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 2.26GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
- 13MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 5.9" 1080 x 1920 True IPS display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



LG G3
P29,990 (16GB)
P33,990 (32GB)

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 chipset, Adreno 330 GPU
- 13MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 5.5" 1440 x 2560 True HD display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 2/3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, DLNA, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0



LG Nexus 5
P22,500

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.2GHz quad-core Krait 400 processor
- 8MP rear with OIS, 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5" 1920 x 1080 multi-touch IPS display
- 16GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 4G LTE, microUSB



Microsoft Surface Pro 2

P59,999 (128GB)

P74,999 (256GB)

- Windows 8.1 Pro
- 4th-gen Intel Core i5 processor
- 720p HD rear and front camera
- 10.6" 1920 x 1080 Full HD LCD
- 64/128/256/512GB built-in, microSD, 4/8GB RAM,
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 3.0



Nokia Lumia 920

P24,850

- Windows Phone 8
- 1.5GHz dual-core Krait processor, Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 chipset, Adreno 225 GPU
- 8MP rear (Carl Zeiss optics), 1.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.5" 1280 x 768 PureMotion HD+ IPS display
- 32GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 4G LTE, NFC, microUSB



Nokia Lumia 925

P23,490

- Windows Phone 8
- 1.5GHz dual-core Krait processor, Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 chipset, Adreno 225 GPU
- 8.7MP rear (Carl Zeiss optics), 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.5" 1280 x 768 AMOLED display
- 16GB built-in, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 4G LTE, NFC, microUSB



Nokia Lumia 1020

P33,500

- Windows Phone 8, upgradable to WP8 Amber
- 1.5GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 processor, Adreno 225 GPU
- 41MP rear (Carl Zeiss optics), 1.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.5" 1280 x 768 AMOLED display
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 4G LTE, NFC, microUSB



Nokia Lumia 1520

P34,990

- Windows Phone 8
- 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor
- 20MP rear, 1.2MP front camera
- 6" 1920 x 1080 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, WLAN, LTE, NFC, microUSB



OPPO Find 7

P25,990

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1440 x 2560 IPS display
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



OPPO Find 7a

P22,990

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor
- 13MP rear, 5MP front camera
- 5.5" 1080 x 1920 display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM



Samsung GALAXY Alpha

P29,990

- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 1.8GHz quad-core Cortex-A15 + 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 processors
- 12MP rear, 2.1MP front camera; 2160p video recording
- 4.7" 1280 x 720 HD Super AMOLED display
- 32GB built-in, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, Wi-Fi Hotspot, LTE, microUSB
- nanoSIM



Samsung GALAXY Mega 6.3

P23,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz dual-core Krait processor, Adreno 305 GPU
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 6.3" 1280 x 720 display
- 8GB built-in, microSD, 1.5GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC, microUSB



Samsung GALAXY Note III

P33,990

- Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
- 2.3GHz quad-core Krait processor, Adreno 330 GPU
- 8MP rear, 1.9MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 5.7" 1080 x 1920 Super AMOLED display
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC, microUSB
- S Pen, S Note



Samsung GALAXY Note 8.0

P21,990

- Android 4.1.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.6GHz quad-core processor
- 5MP rear, 1.3MP front camera
- 8" 1280 x 800 TFT display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, DLNA, 2G, 3G, USB 2.0, microUSB



Samsung GALAXY Note 10.1 2014 Edition

P25,990

- Android support
- 1.9GHz Big core quad + 1.3GHz Little core quad processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 10.1" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, microUSB



Samsung GALAXY NotePRO 12.2

P39,990

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.9GHz + 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 12.2" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, ANT+, USB 3.0



Samsung GALAXY S4

P30,990

- Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.9GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 600, Adreno 320 GPU
- 13MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.99" 1920 x 1080 Super AMOLED display
- 16/32/64GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, microUSB



Samsung GALAXY S5

P34,990 (16GB)

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core processor
- 16MP rear, 2MP front camera
- 5.1" 1920 x 1080 FHD Super AMOLED display
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, USB 3.0



Samsung GALAXY Tab S 8.4

P24,990

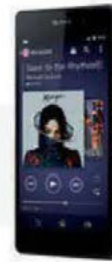
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.9GHz + 1.3GHz quad-core processor
- 8MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 8.4" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, DLNA, Wi-Fi hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0 A2DP, microUSB 2.0



Samsung GALAXY Tab S 10.5

P29,990

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Snapdragon 800 processor
- 8MP rear, 2.1MP front camera
- 10.5" 2560 x 1600 LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, 3G



Sony Xperia Z2

P31,990

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AB processor
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front camera
- 5.2" 1920 x 1080 Full HD TRILUMINOS display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, USB 2.0, microUSB
- waterproof, dustproof



Sony Xperia Z2 Tablet

P33,190

- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Adreno 330 processor
- 8.1MP rear, 2.2MP front camera
- 10.1" 1920 x 1200 display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, DLNA, NFC, microUSB
- waterproof, dustproof



Sony Xperia Z3

P34,990

- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AC Snapdragon 801 processor
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front camera; 2160p video recording
- 5.2" 1080 x 1920 IPS capacitive LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- nanoSIM



Sony's flagship is back in the lighter and thinner Xperia Z3, upping the ante in terms computing power but leaving everything else that you loved about the Z2 untouched.



Sony Xperia Z3 Compact

P29,490

- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AC Snapdragon 801 processor
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front camera; 2160p video recording
- 4.6" 720 x 1280 IPS capacitive LCD
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- nanoSIM



Sony Xperia Z3 Tablet Compact

P31,990

- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AB Snapdragon 801 processor
- 8.1MP rear, 2.2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 8" 1200 x 1920 TFT LCD
- 16/32GB built-in, microSD, 3GB RAM
- NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 4G LTE
- nanoSIM



Sony Xperia Z Ultra

P29,999

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, Adreno 330 GPU
- 8MP rear, 2MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 6.44" 720 x 1280 display
- 16GB built-in, microSD, 2GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, microUSB
- waterproof, dustproof



Vertu Constellation

P287,000

- Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
- 1.7GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, Adreno 320 GPU
- 13MP rear, 1.3MP front camera; 1080p video recording
- 4.3" 720 x 1280 display
- 32GB built-in, microSD, 1GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, microUSB



JM TUAZON

A year without a mobile phone

The year was 2004. There were no iPhones, no TVs that could play and do practically everything, and no 4G-LTE networks that brought blazing-fast internet speeds on demand.

Nokia and Motorola were the dominant phone brands in the market, people were okay with watching TV shows on a big, fat, heavy appliance, and most of us had to wait for a long modem sound to finish before we were able to connect to the 'net.

Incidentally, it was also the year I decided to live without a mobile phone.

Well, not really decided. It was, I'd like to think, natural selection at work. Earlier that year I was using a sturdy and reliable Nokia 3310 I had inherited from my aunt, a mobile phone that had been serving me well until I put it through its paces on a rainy mountain climb. Long story short, the poor thing got wet and muddy and, understandably, suddenly decided that enough was just enough. Kaput. No more. Dead.

I was crestfallen, naturally. I was in high school and the only way to look "cool" and blend in was to have an 11-digit number and a small gadget in your hands where people could easily reach you. But my measly allowance could not have covered for a new phone, let alone repairs for the busted one. And my parents weren't too keen on getting me a new one either. I thought to myself, "How bad could it be, right?"

So for an entire year, I lived a life disconnected from pretty much all of my networks. I missed a lot of gimmicks because my friends couldn't send me a text to invite me to go outside. And when I did have to meet friends, I had to turn up at the exact meeting place at the agreed meeting time, otherwise my friends would think I had bailed on them. Some of the more



thoughtful ones even dropped by our house once in a while just to check if I was still alive!

These days, it's unthinkable not to have a mobile phone for an entire year—heck, many of us couldn't even go a day without sneaking a glance on our phone's screen. Having no phone has become tantamount to social suicide. It's either you're really going reclusive or you're just part of some social experiment that aims to discover the "ills" and "disadvantages" of too much technology in our hands—and live to blog about it.

It's amazing how ten years of innovation and technological advancement have brought us here. Phones are no longer just a means to send a quick "I love you" or check up on friends with a simple "Wer na u?" Today, our phone is as indispensable as our underwear—we never leave home without it. It's the first thing we check when we open our eyes in the morning, and it's our glowing companion in the dark before we turn in for the night. Today, all you need is your phone to watch, listen, record, capture, post, write, talk, and create—activities that would've required a multitude of tools decades ago. Phones have become such a vital part of our day-to-day lives we might as well have them embedded under our skins (hey, you never know, right?).

But in the face of all these technological advancements, it's easy to take a lot of these benefits for granted. Many of us are fortunate to be at the front and center of mobile advancement, but it's easy to brush aside the fact that many, still, are not experiencing the same benefits that we do.

The year is now 2015. Intel just announced a tiny computer the size of a button. Google is developing cars that won't need a driver. And with faster internet, soon you'll be able to download shows and movies at—literally—the blink of an eye.

So make the most of the technology in your hands. Write a song and upload it on YouTube, capture a corrupt cop on video, call your parents abroad often. Now, more than ever, you have the power to do these things anytime you please, all with just a gadget no bigger than the palm of your hand. Use it wisely.

The views expressed by the author in this article are his alone, and do not reflect the views and opinions of Smart Communications, Inc., where the author is currently employed.

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